DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 381 465 SO 024 822

AUTHOR Siler, Carl R.
TITLE Muncie Remembers that Day in Dallas, November 22, 1963. Volume 1.
PUB DATE 94
NOTE 133p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Tests/Evaluation Instruments (160)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC06 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Active Learning; Discovery Learning; Interviews; *Local History; Modern History; *Oral History; Oral Tradition; *Presidents of the United States; *Primary Sources; Secondary Education; Social History; Student Projects; United States History
IDENTIFIERS *Indiana (Muncie); *Kennedy (John F); Texas (Dallas)

ABSTRACT

"Muncie Remembers That Day in Dallas" is an oral history project report of a study conducted by two academic U.S. history classes of 21 students at Muncie Southside High School (Indiana) during the 1993-94 school year. The occasion of the 30th anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy, along with the movie "JFK," had sparked the interest of students in the topic. The students designed the interview instrument, selected persons to be interviewed and then conducted the interviews. Written transcripts from the tape recordings were then organized into a readable format. The memories of 40 participants are recorded in the book, along with copies of the interview questions, participant letter, release form, and an interview log sheet. Contains 19 references. (EH)

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ED 381 465

# MUNCIE REMEMBERS THAT

# DAY IN DALLAS

# NOVEMBER 22, 1963

VOLUME I

ACADEMIC UNITED STATES HISTORY CLASS

DR. CARL R. SILER

MUNCIE SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

MUNCIE, INDIANA

1994

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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# PREFACE

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Friday, November 22, 1963 in Dallas, Texas is an apocalyptic and defining event of twentieth century United States history. It is a story which simply will not go away. Nearly everyone who was alive in that time period of United States history remembers what he or she was doing the moment they heard about the death of President Kennedy. The participants who remember that day in Dallas are now well beyond their mid-forties. This oral history project is an attempt to preserve a small segment of that historical period as viewed through the eyes, experiences, and memories of those participants from Muncie, Indiana. Capturing the experiences and memories of those people on tape is essential because over a period of time, memories fade and those feelings associated with the event can easily be lost or altered. Also important to this historical event is that nearly eighty percent of the American public does not believe the basic conclusion of the Warren Report, and that the entire story of this defining event in our country's history is yet to be fully told. Assassinations of presidents thwart the public will. In a single moment, the course of American history can be altered forever by the assassination of a President. If historians do not document just a small portion of this unique event in United States history, it will be lost or altered over time. The assassination of President Kennedy altered United States history and has left an indelible mark upon the fabric and mosaic of that history.

"Muncie Remembers That Day In Dallas" is an oral history project by Dr. Carl R. Siler's Academic United States History classes at Muncie Southside High School in Muncie, Indiana during the 1993-1994 school year. The thirtieth anniversary of President Kennedy's

assassination and the movie JFK had spurred interest in this topic by a generation far removed from the time period. The interest in the assassination by this generation is tremendous. Yet the country in which these students grow up and raise families was to some extent molded by this important event. An oral history project utilizing local history is an exciting method of allowing students to "experience" history first hand, which makes history class a more valuable learning experience and places local history within the overall perspective of United States History. Oral history adds to the collective knowledge of local and national history because it documents citizen's participation and the memories associated with the assassination of President Kennedy.

This oral history project was partially funded by a grant from the Ball State University Chapter of the Phi Delta Kappa educational fraternity at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Without such external funding, educational projects at the secondary level such as this would not be feasible. The students designed the interview instrument, selected the people to be interviewed, and interviewed them using a tape recorder. Written transcripts were then composed from the tapes into a readable format. Copies of the finished book will be donated to local school and public libraries, Ball State University, Minnetrista Cultural Center Library, Indiana State Library, and the Library of Congress.

I wish to personally thank the members of both classes for their involvement and dedication to this project. Also deserving a thank you are Mr. James Bailey for his audio-visual expertise, the Ball State University chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, Dr. Sam Abram and the Muncie Community Schools for the system's help, and most importantly the participants for sharing their experiences and memories of such an important event in United States History. Hopefully other classes and students will undertake this type of project because if

the voices of past participants are not captured on tape, a vast abundance of historical knowledge will be lost. History is the cumulative remembrances and experiences of millions of "common" Americans, and students of this generation need to understand that the collective nature of these human experiences is truly the essence of American history.

Dr. Carl R. Siler

June, 1994

## STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

An oral history project of this magnitude could not be successful attempted as well as successfully accomplished without the dedication of students. Hopefully students who participated in this project will better understand that United States History is more than a mere collection of isolated facts buy rather is the collective memory of millions of Americans who collectively weave the mosaic to create this country's history. The following students participated during the entire 1993-1994 school year to write this book.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sharon Bird | Chad Blanton |
| Ryan Boone | Daniel Bragg |
| Clara Brown | Natalie Corn |
| April Denney | Marcus Feeney |
| Sabra Filler | Lisa Fuatavai |
| Stacey Hartley | Jane Hensley |
| David Mace | Rexanne Messer |
| Richard Parker | Melissa Ruddick |
| David Spence | Shane Stevenson |
| Thadeus Stoops | Patricia Thompson |
| Lara Williams | |

Interview Questionnarie on JFK Assassination

1. How old were you, where did you live, and what you were doing the moment you first heard about the JFK assassination?

2. What were your feelings and thoughts when you first heard about the assassination?

3. What do you think about the Warren Commission conclusion that no consiracy existed in the assassination?

4. What do you think of the Warren Commission conclusion that Oswald was the lone assassin?

5. What do you think of the Warren Commission conslusion that one bullet hit both President Kennedy and Governor Connally?

6. What do you think of the Warren Commission conclusion that only three shots were fired at President Kennedy?

7. What do you think of the Warren Commission conclusion that Jack Ruby was in no way involved in the assassination of JFK?

8. How did the assassination of JFK personally affect your life?

9. What sort of lasting impact do you think JFK's death has had on society?

10. How do you think JFK's assassination altered the course of United States history?

11. Explain in detail what you think really happened with the JFK assassination.

12. Is there anything else you wish to add about the JFK assassination that we have not discussed?

**Dale Basham**

Question # 1:

I was in the seventh grade, I believe, and I was in math class. In fact, I was taking a math test at the time. Miss Sandman was my teacher, and she had big ol' buck teeth, I remember, and she had really bad hair. I mean the things you remember about a person. But while I was taking this test, Eva Mae Shuck was sitting next to me. Now Eva Mae was looking off my paper, unbeknownst to me, as I was taking this test. Our principal came over the loudspeaker and told us that the President had been shot. Well, Eva Mae let out a war whoop and alerted Miss Sandman's attention, [who] caught Eva Mae cheating off my math test. I don't know if I got in trouble because it was so horrifying. Everybody was just stunned, as you might imagine. Then we were sent home. On the bus, our bus driver had turned on the radio, and we were listening to the Walter Chronkite report on the assassination. As little kids on a bus, we were all just so silent and horrified and scared that life as we knew it was going to change. Interestingly enough, it did.

Question # 2:

Well, you know, my family had not been Kennedy supporters, although everybody had grown to be kind of mesmerized by the Kennedy mystique -- Jacqueline Kennedy and everything she represented and the elegance she brought to the White House -- and John F. Kennedy, for his youth and vigor. That was the first time I had ever heard that word. I associated that with John Kennedy because he had that great Bostonian dialect.

Question # 3:

I can't speak as an expert, because I certainly am not privy to all the facts. I have not read the Warren Commission. I know the basics of the Warren Commission, but I will tell you this: I can not imagine that the then Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, along with Congressman Ford, who would later become President, [while] studying the assassination, decided that they were going to keep a secret or have their own conspiracy to keep the truth from the American people. I just kind of believe

that they probably told the truth. I'm not cynical. I don't believe in authority just because they're authority, so I guess I believe the Warren Commission.

Question # 4:

I have no reason to believe anything else ... or to know anything else.

Question # 5:

Like I said, I can't really speak as an expert, so ...

Question # 7:

Maybe he did. I've heard the theory that it was either a Communist plot, or a CIA plot, or a Mafia plot to kill the President. And Ruby, because of his Mafia background ... I don't know what the truth about Ruby is.

Question # 8:

I can remember the next two days my whole family watching television hour after hour. We were all just stunned. The country was so... so sad and so depressed. We just couldn't believe it. Even though [people] look back on the sixties with a sort of romantic nostalgia, the sixties were just kind of scary to me. I mean, the music was great, but dang! Every time you would open up the newspaper or turn on the television, you'd see the Vietnam War, or some peace demonstration, or some demonstration because of the race relations in America, and I felt like the whole decade we were just scared.

Questions # 9 and # 10:

Well, I don't know what might have been different, but I will tell you that everybody who lived in that era can pretty much tell you where they were at the moment [Kennedy] was shot. So it was both a collective and an individual shock for all of us. Interestingly enough, Johnson was able to see Kennedy's plan through Congress more effectively than Kennedy would have been able to see his own plan through Congress. You see, Johnson's background was as Senate majority leader, I believe. Kennedy did not have the same reputation among senators and congressmen and congresswomen. Maybe in the sense -- and I would never say that things are better when someone dies, but I think

that when you look at the social change brought about by our leadership in the sixties, [the success] was probably shepherded through Congress more easily by Johnson than it would have been by Kennedy.

Question #11

I believe that before the President and Jacqueline got into the car, some misguided soul [had been] involved with Communists or involved in some -- oh, I don't know -- some late-night ramblings with the Mafia or some person or some group of people who wanted Kennedy dead. He decided that he was going to take the law into his own hands and impress that group of people. That group of people may have included Jack Ruby, it may have included some pro-Castro Cubans, who knows? But he wanted to impress that group of people by killing the President, and so he took his rifle to the Texas Book Depository, and [he] took aim and shot. And then, feeling like, you know, a big ol' macho he-man, [he] started running from the scene and went to see a movie, I think. Wasn't he found in a movie theater? And then Jack Ruby caught him... shot him. I saw that, too. That was freaky! [I was] just watching television, and BOOM! There he is!

**Beverly Beatty**

Question # 1:

I was student teaching in Cincinnati, Ohio. I would've been 21 years old. I lived in Cincinnati.

Question # 2:

Disbelief. I could not believe at that particular time an assassination could take place.

Question # 3:

I don't agree with it at all. I do believe there was a conspiracy.

Question # 4:

I do not agree. I don't see how one person could've done the damage that was done.

Question # 5:

That's a little hard to believe, that one bullet, your talking about one bullet going through two people and causing a lot of damage. A little bit unbelievable.

Question # 6:

I really don't know, I guess I haven't thought about that aspect. I think the shots came from more than one direction. I don't think they all came from the Texas Book Depository. I think there were other places the shots came from. So probably more than three total.

Question # 7:

I can't believe that either if he were not involved with the assassination why was it so important for him to annihilate Oswald. It makes no sense to me.

Question # 8:

The assassination probably affected me the most in the realization an assassination could occur to someone with the power of the President. In an age you believe that we have

good security.

Question # 9:

I think that the assassination affected society in a way that we've been trying to figure out who did it and why. I don't think that there's been a more infamous crime than that of JFK.

Question # 10:

It altered the course of history because of what would've happened had Kennedy continued to be President. So naturally the next President didn't do things the way he would've so we lost out on..on what he had started.

Question # 11:

I believe there was a government conspiracy to assassinate the President of the United States because they feared what he was going to do. And I believe that there were top officials that were involved. Maybe, including some of the bureaucracies of government at the very top.

Question # 12:

No, other than I thought, it was a very sad time for the country.

**Judy Blanton**

Question #1:

I was 28 years old, lived in Muncie, IN, my oldest child was in school, my two youngest children were watching TV when it came over the TV.

Question #2:

I think it was very shocking because I had never heard of anything like this happening in my life. It was something you couldn't really believe happened. You thought it was something like a made up story they would put on TV.

Question #3:

I think the real truth will never ever come out. I think there is more being held by the Warren Commission than is being told.

Question #4:

Absolutely not. I don't think he was intelligent enough or had the opportunity to do all that he did on his own without alot of backers. (Like what kind of backers?) Government, political, wealthy backers. Foreign backers.

Question #5:

I believe it possible, but highly improbable. (Why do you say that?) Becuase I think there was more than one gun being fired at the same time.

Question #6:

Possibly the first person aiming at Kennedy only got three shots fired, but I think during thishappening there was a multitude of shots.

Question #7:

No, I don't think he was involved. Maybe he was connected with Oswald in the underground. I don't think he was involved with the Warren Commission. I think someone paid him to quiet Oswald because he knew too much.

Question #8:

I think knowing that something like that could happen to our government which is supposed to be so well protected, I think we have had a big downfall in our government since then. I don't think people have as much faith in our government is as honest as they used to be or are supposed to be with the general public.

Question #9:

I think now that people can get by with assassinating a president, that is why there is so much corruption coming out that the government is involved in and it will not ever be cleared up. (So do you feel that this was one of the events that contributed to the modern-day distrust of politicians?) Oh definetly. I don't think anyone can truthfully say that they can trust a government official anymore. I think its been proven they have lied to the nation and covered up so much that that is why we really haven't had any great leaders since then.

Question #10:

I personally think President Kennedy had to be quieted because of something he knew, somedbody he knew was doing something, and I think that there was foreign countries involved and I think it was a conspiracy between other countries and ours to quiet him so none of this would come out to protect alot of other government officials. (What do you think they might be trying to Quiet?) Well I'm not sure if we will ever really know. I don't think the government wants us to know. I think this had been very well hid. Possible records have been destoryed. I don't really know what I think he was involved in, but I think it was upsetting a lot of major political figures.

Question #12:

Oh I just think its a shame that in this supposedly civilized world that we know that our government is so powerful that it can cover up something like this. You stop and think about this, they can kill anybody they want to and the case would be closed and the

public would never know the truth.(You think that still strikes fear in people today?) Oh definitely. I think that's why there is still so much racial tension. There's too much power and money and certain people can ge away with anything. This is not supposed to be a communist country, yet there is so much still hidden from the people.

**Ronald Mark Blanton**

Question #1:

Well I was a teenager in high school, and I was in Algebra class when the principal came over the air. He sounded sad and he said that the president had been shot. We were shocked. We had never been in that kind of situation before.

Question #2:

I just didn't know what to do, I was confused and sad and angry all at the same time. This is our national leader, I mean, back then, the president meant everything in this country. If you asked a kid what he most wanted to be, it wouldn't be a ballplayer, it would be president.

Question #3:

I feel that there was a definite conspiracy and that Oswald was a part of it. I think that there were probably government agencies involved.

Question #4:

Like I said before, I think Oswald was definitely part of the conspiracy. I believe that Oswald probably did not know that he was the one that was going to be the patsy of the group, so to speak. I think he knew Kennedy was going to be killed.

Question #5:

I think that its rather improbable, because, what were there, like 6-7 wounds? I think that's what it is. I don't think one bullet could cause all of those wounds between them.

Question #6:

I feel that the Warren Commission did a very poor job in really researching the assassination. To me, now that I look back on it, I don't believe that one man could have fired those shots so quickly as Oswald was supposed to have done.

Question #7:

I think that Ruby definitely knew Oswald before the assassination and was probably part of the conspiracy.

Question #8:

It made me fear that I couldn't be safe, that my family couldn't be safe, my mom couldn't be safe. If a president can be killed, then why not me? Or why not my sister or mother?

Question #9:

I think it told of the violence to come in our country. I think one could look at this as a prophecy of what was to come.

Question #10:

I don't believe that we would have been involved in Vietman as much was we were. I think Kennedy had definite reservations about that are of the world. I don't think we would have been there.

Question #11:

I think that there was a conspiracy in which Oswald, Ruby, and others were involved with some form of the government. I think that this is how it was covered up so well. It takes a powerful organization to cover-up an issue like this.

Question #12:

No.

**Craig Boone**

Question #1:

I was 16. I lived in Muncie, Indiana. I was roaming the halls of the high school during a Latin class free hour.

Question #2:

Everyone was, of course, stunned and in disbelief that this type of thing could happen to someone that we thought was so protected as the highest official in the land. I don't remember what we were thinking at the time as to who could have done it or about any type of a plot, moreso, just the fact that he was a very popular and charismatic President and we were all shocked at the loss.

Question #3:

I think it is probably ludicrous to think that there was no conspiracy irregardless of how many people were involved. I can't believe that a single assailant could have carried off such a complex and well thought out plan to assassinate someone who obviously is under what you would like to believe fairly high security and protection.

Question #4:

I don't think it really makes a lot of sense as I said earlier to think that one person could have plotted and carried this whole scheme and certainly I don't think that Oswald was sophisticated enough to carry off the event. I am not understanding why really the Warren Commission is so easy to accept the idea that Oswald was the lone assassin, although it certainly lends credibility to the fact of a cover-up. I think most people in this day and age are reluctant to accept everything that comes out of the government as fact and certainly with the assassination of someone so cherished by the American people, and certainly I'm reluctant to accept that a lone assassin carried off this whole thing and that we are all just supposed to accept this and forgive and forget, I think that is silly.

Question #5:

Certainly, a high powered rifle at that range, I think, with two people as close in the car, it certainly could have gone through one person and entered the second body, but I think it is a rather simple minded conclusion and it sort of goes along with my feeling that maybe the Warren Commission is wanting to, if not so much affect a cover-up just affect, well this is how it was done, let's forget it.

Question #6:

I think there may have been three shots fired at President Kennedy, but I am not convinced that they all came from the same gun in the same location. I think it is a little hard to believe that he could have fired three shots that quickly with that accuracy unless he was an expert marksman and I think it makes more sense to think as in the Oliver Stone movie, that maybe there were three or more shots fired from different locations, done so in a strategic manner to make sure that the President was killed. I am sure that if you would give this assignment to military men that they would have carried off the assassination in some facsimile to Oliver Stone's portrayal of different snipers at different spots.

Question #7:

I am sure that Jack Ruby was involved in some way, although maybe not in a large way. However, it certainly seems that he was set on removing Oswald and his subsequent testimony. Maybe, this was a way to point the finger at Oswald even more, although I am really not so set with the explanation that Jack Ruby was a JFK and Kennedy family fan and that he was doing it out of grief. I think is too simplified and that the American people are not really so stupid as to accept that.

Question #8:

I felt like most Americans at the time, and certainly a 16 year old American, that JFK was our white knight President and even though there was a lot of fear certainly

about the Cuban Missile Crisis, we all felt like that he had carried us through that in a grand manner and I think certainly that we all were shocked and suffered a certain amount of grief. As I look back on it and reflect maybe on JFK, I am not so sure that he would have been the President that he was touted to have been, if he had been able to fulfill his term.

Question #9:

Well, certainly the fact that LBJ took over for JFK got us into the Viet Nam crisis, perhaps we wouldn't have if JFK would have been in office. I think it certainly has a gray effect on the texture of American society thinking that even the most important person in the land can be eliminated at someone's whim.

Question #10:

Unanswered.

Question #11:

I am not certain that I have one definite explanation for the JFK assassination because it seems that there were enough vying factions at the time in our society and congress and perhaps the military and also with the Russian Cuban problem, it seems that there could have been multiple groups of people that wanted to eliminate JFK. Perhaps, some people even think that Lyndon Johnson was somehow involved and perhaps the Mafia, perhaps the Cuban faction, J. Edgar Hoover included. I am certain that there were groups that wished they would have been able to kill him before he was even gunned down as he was.

Question #12:

Only to say that I am sure that the American people will probably never know the truth about the assassination, that for whatever reason, either a true cover-up in the government of the fact that certain people feel like we should never know what happened exactly or that we could not handle the truth of that probably the truth will never be

revealed because of shredded documents and permanent hush people who will never reveal the truth.

**Patsy Bragg**

Question #1:

I was fifteen at Muncie Southside High School.

Question #2:

I thought it was hard to believe. I felt a loss to my country.

Question #3:

I thought it was a governmental cover-up. I think Lee Harvey Oswald was in the assassination, but I don't think he done it alone.

Question #4:

No possible way. To many facts contradict each other. I don't believe the Single Bullet Theory. I believe Oswald was the only person in the Depository Building, but I believe assassins were in the grassy knoll and other places. I believe Jack Ruby was involved. I think that is why he killed Lee Harvey Oswald.

Question #6:

Don't really know how many. It's been so long and the facts have been covered up. No one will never know for sure.

Question #7:

Hard not to believe he was involved the way the shooting took place and the way security had relaxed.

Question #8:

None that I can think of off hand. Except I felt a loss.

Question #9:

The end to full trust in the government.

Question #10:

- Probably made the Vietnam War last longer than it should have.

Question #11:

Some interested party either big business or political or both wanted to keep us in a war to bolster the economy and save the bottom line decided to save the bottom line decided to take action against President Kennedy. I think Oswald and Ruby were just Pawns in the game.

Question #12:

It was a waste of a great president and a waste of a great man who still had a lot to offer our country. He will always live on in our hearts and country. I don't think we will ever know the truth about his death.

**Ted Byers**

Question #1:

I was in a grocery store.

(You don't know what you were doing, besides shopping?)

I went in the store to buy some sweets. Some cookies. I went in there to buy some cookies, something sweet. That's when the cashier told me about it. I had been sleeping, because I worked second shift. I just got up and went to the store. I hadn't turned the T.V. on all day, and as soon as I walked in the store the guy told me what had happened. That's when I went home and turned the T.V. on.

Question #2:

I was worried about the country. I didn't what would transpire out of it.

Question #3:

I think it's a joke. I think the Warren Commission was appointed by Lyndon Johnson and they gave him the results that he wanted which was the lone gunman. That's what he wanted and that's what they gave him.

Question #4:

No, I think that's ridiculous.

Question #5:

Definitely no. I don't think that is possible.

Question #6:

That could be, I think there were four, but there could've been three.

Question #7:

I think he made sure that he killed Oswald. Oswald never had a chance to talk and I think that...well I think the CIA and the Mafia were involved. I believe they made sure that Oswald never had a chance to talk and tell his side of it.

Question #8:

People don't really trust the government like thy used to, and they don't think the government is always telling the truth. I think the government really was involved.

Question #9:

I really don't think it has a lasting impact on my life. I really don't.

Question #10:

I don't know how it altered the course of history. Maybe it changed the way we deal with other countries, the way we deal with presidents. I don't know how it could've altered it, though. I don't think it has. It changed politics.

Question #11:

I think Oswald...I've watched a lot on this so I can't really tell you what happened. I think Oswald shot from the Book Depository. I think he fires two shots. I think that one hit Kennedy in the back of the neck. The other one hit Connally and I think the third shot came from the Grassy Knoll that blew Kennedy's head off. That's what I think happened.

(Earlier you said that you didn't think there were only three. Why?)

There was a man standing under a bypass and claimed that a piece of cement wall. Whether that was the fourth bullet or one of the others, I don't know. There was at least three, I think.

Question #12:

I just don't think that anyone will ever know the truth. I think Kennedy became a threat to the CIA. The CIA played a big part in it and I believe the Mafia as hitmen. The reason I think the CIA had a part in it because of the autopsies and all the other stuff was rigged. And the Mafia wouldn't have been able to do that. Someone in the government had to be involved. To change the autopsy and the casket. The one he left in was different from the one he arrived in and one man said he placed the president in a sheet and the other men who received him said he was in a body bag. So, I believe he wanted to get rid of the CIA because of the Bay of Pigs operation.

**Cathy Corn**

Question # 1:

I was seven years old. I lived here in Muncie, and I was in grade school. I was in second grade, and when we heard that President Kennedy was shot we all went to the gym and prayed that he wouldn't die. All the teachers were crying. It was really weird.

Question # 2:

I couldn't believe that he was dead. Everybody liked him.

Question # 3:

Oh, I think it was a cover-up. I think there was a conspiracy.

Question # 4:

I think he was kinda a guy to blame it on. To keep the rest from getting into trouble. He was a patsy.

Question # 5:

I think it was pretty impossible. Well, because if they are saying about the one that hit him n the back of the head, it looked like it went straight through. It wouldn't have had chance to hit the other, and because of the angle.

Question # 6:

I think there was more than three.

Question # 7:

I think he was involved and that he killed Oswald on order to cover-up for his involvement. (What do you think he did?) He may have been one of the people who was shooting.

Question # 8:

I think President Kennedy would have made a difference in the way we live, and we would be a more moral society with less crime.

Question # 9:

I think it's kinda destroyed some people's hopes, and, also, it's taken away the faith in our government.

Question # 10:

I think he might have made a difference in. I think the jobs might have been different. There wouldn't have been such a upper division and lower class. I think we would have done more sooner for education, and to help people, and I also think he would have ended Vietnam more quickly.

Question # 11:

Well, I think that Vice President Johnson had something to do with it, and a lot of other people in the government. They didn't want a Catholic president. They didn't like how he catered to the poorer person. I think it was a conspiracy between all the people as a way to get rid of John F. Kennedy. I think they had several shooters placed in different places around where he was going. I also think that the person who planned the trip was in on it, because he routed him that way, and they made it pretty public to cover their butts. I think there was more than one assassin there to kill him, and one of them was going to get him, and they probably don't even know who got him.

Question # 12:

The only thing that I think they should do is that I think they should investigate it more, and to be honest with the American people, even though it is many years later.

**Ron Davis**

Question #1:

How old was I? Oh gee, let's see, I would have been twenty-six. I was teaching Social Studies at Franklin Junior Highschool in Muncie, Indiana the day of the occurrence.

Question #2:

Well, it's interesting how you can remember specifically what you were doing. We were discussing Roman gods and goddesses in class. The assistant principal came to my door, and called me over to the door and said that John Kennedy had just been shot. I was in such a state of disbelief that I thought probably a hand, arm or slight wound. I went right back to teaching, picking up right on the subject of gods and goddesses without any thought for ten or fifteen minutes. The assistant principal returned and said the report on the radio said that he had died. I just could not believe it. It was like unreal, I thought he was joking. I had grown up a small child during World War II when there were a lot of patriotic conversations around my home. My father and uncles were all off to the service. Movies were all patriotic, where we were beating up on the Germans and the Japanese. This just did not happen. I just could not believe it.

Question #3:

I, at first I thought it was an investigation that was started, maybe not started too soon, but it seemed like it did not take them long to gather whatever information. There just had to be some conspiracy. Now, a longer time goes by the more I guess I just accept what they say now. I still have some doubts in the back of my mind.

Question #4:

Well, based on other investigative stories, I've read about and have watched on t.v.

there are a small number of people who seemingly would bet their life on the fact that there were shots from another location than the book storage warehouse. They sound quite convincing. I'm not quite sure to this day if Oswald was the only one or not. There's still that room for doubt based on what seemingly seem sane and normal people saying they heard shots behind a fence.

Question #5:

Confused, because I've seen blistic experts explaining both how this could happen and I've seen others explain how that was an impossibility. You watch, and you gather this information and you're just not quite sure. There is nothing conclusive, there is that room for doubt.

Question #6:

If I remember correctly, it was a motorcycle radio that picked up what seemingly was another sound of a shot being fired other than the three from Oswald. I don't know. Based on the eyewitnesses that were there some of their stories. It seems like there is a good chance that there were more than three. I've watched tape experts testify and explain how there were only three. They've explained the way the radio sounded. They have not explained the way the eyewitnesses who swore. It was a state of panic, like that. It's awfully difficult to tell where the sound of a shot may have came from, because of the echoing around the buildings.

Question #7:

Oh, I don't think he was involved in the assassination. I'm not so sure that he was not recruited or hired after Oswald was arrested to eliminate him. I don't think he had anything to do with the original planning of the assassination. Now, the question comes up, if that's so, who might have hired him?

Question #8:

Oh, my life has never been the same if you go back to what I was saying about my childhood. Growing up you love America. America is right. We stand for the good and so forth. Then comes along the assassination of JFK which is as I said before, I just could not believe it. It just could not have happened. It was impossible here, we were too civilized and caring and loving of people. His assassination following his brothers and Martin Luther King. I think I've been awakened to the realities of history. Throughout history there have been assassinations. I guess looking at my life, times today are I guess no different than they've been throughout history. I've been more cynical, and more disappointed in people, in general their behavior.

Question #9:

I think pretty much the same as mine, much more cynical. I don't think we'll ever go back to the what's the t.v. show? Happy Days kind of attitude where your daily problems are really rather minor. I think we all are much more serious people and more cynical. Nothing shocks us anymore. If someone came in and told me President Clinton was shot, I would not go through that same disbelief. I would believe it. That's not saying nothing for, nor against Clinton, anyone that was president. I just would believe it today.

Question #10:

Oh golly, that is a monster question. I don't know. You start thinking of elections that were held after his assassination. You think of Johnson's presidency and the Vietnam War. You think of the civil rights and all of those major events could have been altered. We may have gotten involved in Vietnam more seriously or we may have gotten out more quickly. Which means a lot more Americans would be alive today, than are. His death could have

been the result of many deaths in Vietnam. I know Johnson probably meant well when he sent troops there. The civil rights, I doubt whether that would have changed much because Johnson was a strong civil rights supporter. I've often wondered, Kennedy being so young what he might have done after he completed his two terms as president, and still been a relatively young person. What would he have done with the remaining part of his life? His death has of course made him a martyr. If he had not been assassinated he wouldn't have achieved that status, but who wants to get killed to become a martyr?

Question #11:

You're wanting me to tell you more that the Warren Commission? The Warren Commission is a rather thick book. Let's see, JFK was at the time very popular with many people. As I recall his popularity was growing internationally and nationally. He was beginning to push or to cooperate more with the civil rights movement and that in itself would trigger a lot of fear and hatred among a certain portion of our population. If it was just that fact that he was almost considered royalty in this country. Whether it was his push toward civil rights for the African American. I'm not sure,I think it's more or less a combination of all. When a president is very popular he very often gets his way on many issues. He was a more or less liberal president. There were conservative people who did not like him. He was a man you either loved or hated, you were not in between on him. I don't know, Oswald could have been just a rather mentally imbalanced person who decided he was going to save the country from this type of person. I don't know, who does know?

Question #12:

Well, I think that from my standpoint it was a sad event for two or three days following the assassination. That's all you watched on t.v. Everyone stayed home and

watched the funeral of JFK. I think the whole nation was in shock. The news broadcasters even had tears in their eyes when they discussed it when they were broadcasting. I really am to a point where I have watched the tapes appear on t.v. so frequently that I really turn my head now. I guess I'm tired of seeing him killed over and over. That's from my standpoint because I'm an older person who was here when it happened. I watched his little child salute the casket. I saw millions of people interviewed and in mourning for him. I wonder what influence, it would have on your generation, maybe you do need to see this. I don't know. to watch it over and over I can't watch it anymore. When it comes on I have to turn my head. It has gotten to be too much to watch. I don't know how many times I've watched it, but it is innumerable.

**Anita Denney**

Question #1: I was in the seventh grade so I guess I was about thirteen. I lived in Farmland and went to Monroe Central High School. I was in study hall when they came over the speaker and announced it.

Question #2:

I was shocked. Who would be stupid enough to kill the president? We were all stunned and just kind of stared at each other waiting to let it sink in. UNBELIEVABLE!

Question #3:

I don't believe it at all. Someone from inside had to know something. I do not think one man alone could manage to have all that happened unplanned. There are to many unexplained things.

Question #4:

There is no way Oswald could have done everything they say he did. It seems to me to be another cover up. I think he was an easy answer to solve the problem of who to blame. He was set up from the beginning to take the heat.

Question #5:

No way. The damage that was done was the work of seperate bullets. I cannot bring myself to believe one bullet changed positions so many times and was later found nearly flawless.

Question #6:

I don't know how many shots were fired, but I am positive it was more than three. One definitely missed and there had to be at least three besides that. If I remember correctly one man was scraped by a bullet. It leads to at least four and probably more than that.

Question #7:

Bull! I think he was involved. He was in it from the very beginning. It was some plan and he was set up the whole time, or had the job of getting rid of Oswald. Oswald

was a puppet in the whole thing. They had to drop him because he did have some information that could lead to the people who were in on killing the president.

Question #8:

It made me more aware of what was going on politically. Before that the only thing I really remembered was living through the elections. My family never really talked about politics until then. We would sit around the table and watch the processional and all the media. It was all that was on for days and the funny thing is it didn't get boring. After a while I was ready to watch something else, but it never seemed to get old. Even then my family talked about more than one assassin. It also made me see that we are not invincible. If someone can kill the president what can happen to someone like me? It kind of destroyed my childhood dreams. Anyone can be a victim.

Question #9:

I think he was immortalized in his death. People only remember the good, what they wanted to remember . I think if he would have lived people would have still been seeing the bad. It was a tragic thing and maybe we learned a little bit from it. It is something I hope I never have to go through again and I hope my kids never have to see it happen. I think we learned that we cannot trust people as far as we would like to. It made me aware of the gun control problems that exist. Some of the people involved had been or were in jail and it made me see that our government is not what I had made it out to be. It is hard for me to remember all the details but I think it definitely made us more aware. That is the one area where I grew up fast and wasn't the little kid anymore.

Question #10:

Well, when he died Lyndon B. Johnson took over as president. I never cared for him as a person. I feel that he was a morally wrong person. I don't agree with a lot of the things he did or the reasons he did them. I think our country suffered because of him and is worse off due to things he did. He was not only politically, but also privately out for his own self. To bad for the little guy.

Question #11:

I believe there was a conspiracy. I am not sure it was the U.S. government but I think political people were involved. I don't want to believe our government was involved. It could have involved the mob, I just know it took a lot of people to accomplish such an ordeal. It was a huge cover up so I believe political people were involved. I think the Johnson administration had something to do with it, maybe even Johnson himself. There is definitely more to it than we are led to believe. I don't know if Jackie was actually had to do with it but I think she knows more than she lets on. She was a smart lady. I think she went along with the Warren Commission for the sake of the country. Sometimes we do things we know are wrong for the good of others. This whole deal about letting her great grand children open files is for the birds. We have a right to know what happened that day. Why make us wait?

**Herb Denney Jr.**

Question #1:

I was in sixth grade, I lived on 1421 twelfth street, and I was in class when I heard that the president had been assassinated.

Question #2:

I don't know. I thought it should not have happened. It just should not have happened.

Question #3:

It was wrong. It was a cover-up, a what ever you want to call it. No, that was not the right conclusion.

Question #4:

I don't believe that either.

Question #5:

No way. I don't believe that either. I think the government is corrupt.

Question #6:

Well, I don't know how many shots were fired at President Kennedy, I have no idea. I just know that it was not the way they explained it, the lone assassin from the window. No way.

Question #7:

I don't have any information on that either. I couldn't tell you.

Question #8:

Not much. A president was assassinated, another one took his place. Not much.

Question #9:

Not much. Our government was corrupt before he came to power, it is corrupt now. Not much.

Question #10:

Not much.

Question #11:

I wouldn't know. Nobody knows. Well I think it was a conspiracy, yes. I think he was shot from the front or the side, front, yeah. Other than that I don't know who did it, I just know it was done. I don't believe it was from the window.

Question #12:

Well no, not really, not about that. His policy was, if anything, his policy was too leniant during the Cuba crisis. Which that's another subject, but if you want to know what I think about his presidency, I thought when you draw a line, you stick with it and we backed off. We eventually got the missiles pulled out, maybe, I don't know that for a fact, our government said we did but he said that this is the line you don't cross with your ships and we backed our ships off several times, we shouldn't have done that. We should have stuck with it.

**Larry Finney**

Question #1:

I'd have been probably 17; I lived just outside of Selma, which is just outside of Muncie. I was sitting inside my high school classroom when we heard.

Question #2:

I couldn't believe anything like that would happen, shocked, then wondering what was going to happen now that the President of the United States was shot, What was going to happen to the country, who did it, and why.

Question #3:

I don't think that the United States Government allowed it to happen, but I still have feelings, not at that time, but now, since I'm older, I still think there had to be some other countries involved or something.

Question #4:

I can't remember all the reports and all the stuff about it. The fatal was probably from him. Whether there was any more shots or not, I think there was or could have been, but with that high powered rifle and the scope and everything, he could have done it very easily.

Question #5:

I don't see how it could happen. It'd have to glance off and ricochet to do it, I think.

Question #6:

I'd say there was no more than that. The longer that you are at a crime scene, the more of a chance of getting caught. You don't want to shoot too much and make too much commotion. After the first shot, they're going to be trying to find out where you're at and get to you as soon as possible. I'd say no, there wasn't four.

Question #7:

He probably was just...I think he was not involved in it. I think he was just depressed and shocked like everyone else and he just wanted to let revenge out or frustration out and that was his way of doing it.

Question #8:

It never changed my life, really. I just thought that the government needed to do, to do a little more protection of the President. Although there's no sure way of completely protecting him, unless you isolate him in a booth, bullet-proof vehicle, stand, and everything else. There's just no way of doing it. Maybe it might have changed a lot of other people's lives that are connected with the government. It's still unbelievable to this day that this happened, that I lived through that time, and all the things that went on.

Question #9:

I guess it just basically made everybody realize that nobody is invulnerable to anything like that. It could happen to anybody, no matter who they are, how much money they've got, what their status is, or anything...that could happen to anybody. And that they need to do more to protect people in high levels like that.

Question #10:

How, I'm not really sure. I know it changed a lot. Partly because I think one reason why he was assassinated probably was some other government that he was stepping on their toes wanted to get him out of there before he could do anything to them. So that would have changed some status in some of the other countries. It's really hard to say what affect that would have had in the change of the government. He had a lot of good ideas and stuff. We could have had some things changed that he wanted to and already done by now. There have

definitely been some changes, a lot didn't go on.

Question #11:

I never really gave it much thought. I always thought that he (Oswald) could have done most of it himself, although with that type of gun he had, if I remember right, it was a bolt-action, it's much tougher to fire more than one shot quickly for the bolt-action than an automatic rifle. I'm not really sure.

Question #12:

I just hope in my lifetime that we don't have anything like that again. I think that the Secret Service and everybody do all they can to prevent something like that from ever happening again. It is devastating to the country. And does put a lot in things in chaos. People not knowing what to do, what is going to happen, a lot of uncertainty in that time. The leader of your nation is killed like that, it's a trauma to go through. When it happened, I was sitting in class when they came over there and said he's shot. Then later on they came back over and said he had died. Kids were crying. It's just unbelievable that this could happen in this country, or something like that would happen. The funeral was something different, too.

**Michael Gorin**

Question #1:

I was seventeen years old, I lived in Muncie, Indiana, and I was a student at Muncie Southside High School. It was a Friday and we were involved in a pep session here at Southside. We were about to play our first basketball game of the season. I can't remember if the game was scheduled that Friday or Saturday, but it was our first pep session. I was on the basketball team and we had gone to the gymnasium approximately 2:00 p.m., and I remember sitting in the gymnasium with the band playing. The kids were having a skit. There kind of became a murmur through the crowd. We were on stage so we couldn't (the coaches and the players) hear what was being said. Finally, it got up to us on the stage that President Kennedy and Governor Connally had been shot. That's all I knew. The pep session continued, eventually it ended. I remember going out of the gym, off the stage, down the back hallway, past the cafeteria, and into room 118. There was an English teacher named Mrs. Church in there. I stopped in there to say "Hi" or whatever. When I stepped in the room she was crying, I asked her what was wrong. Just as I was saying that the school administration had plugged in the radio to the intercom. It announced kind of what was going on. They said that President Kennedy had died at 1:03 p.m. at Barker Hospital in Texas. I didn't really say anything to Mrs. Church. I remember when I walked out into the hallway, that everybody was crying. Everybody! My locker, was just down that hallway, I met my girlfriend at her locker, caught the school bus, and went home. I stopped by my girlfriend's house, watched television for awhile, ran home, and finished watching the news when I got home.

Question #2:

Well you know I couldn't believe it! I think every one was shocked. We had kind of grown up with President Kennedy. Well, not grown up with him, but he was young and the media made a lot of him. It seemed like society and we as young people, related to him. You hate to see your president, your leader, being killed. Violence wasn't quite as

bad in the sixties as it is today. It was more shocking. Nowadays, kids see all kinds of violence especially on T.V. and in their neighborhoods. It hit all of us hard.

Question #3:

Well, I think it was basically wrong. I think that there were things that they left out. I think there was a rush to put together information to kind of settle the country down. I think there were things they just misinterpreted, didn't checkout. I think they tried to do a pretty good job, but there were some things they just missed.

Question #4:

I don't think that's accurate I think the thing they mainly missed was that there was a conspiracy. I think, personally that there was a little bit more to it than just a lone assassin. I can't remember all the books and myths and stories and things that you've heard over the years. There were just too many things that went on that weren't explained. You know, how could someone fire so many bullets in so many seconds? Three bullets, three shots that quick, that accurate. There were just things that they missed. I don't think one person could've done those kind of things.

Question #5:

Well, that's what I'm saying I just don't think all that was possible. Some of the accuracy...I mean that's possible a bullet can go through one individual and hit another. I think that might be a possibility, but I think there were too many people who heard them, and other witnesses. There were a lot of people standing around whom they couldn't account for.

Question #6:

Like I said in Question 4 I don't think there was a lot of accuracy in researching the assassination, but personally I don't have an opinion on how many shots were fired.

Question #7:

Of all names that might be the one that was the most accurate to me that the Warren Commission came up with. I don't know if he was there at the silence of Oswald or not.

Personally, if I was involved with a conspiracy I just wouldn't want to ride on one individual like him to silence someone like Oswald; there would be more at stake. The only thing I could think of would be if he had some access to the police and they helped him. I don't know if he was a person who was emotionally distraught, because of the assassination. I think that's the most accurate of any whom wasn't involved in the assassination.

Question #8:

Well we've lived with it for thirty years now. It brought home kind of a reality as a young person growing up. You know when you're seventeen you think that...it's kind of like when you're about eleven and you figure out that there is no such thing as Santa Clause, but still it was a nice little myth. This brought home a reality that the potential wrong doings of our government, of individuals, that death is permanent, that people have to die, that the world is a very violent place. It made you kind of grow up and think about things. Then you started wondering in relationship to the Warren Commission, if it was accurate. The things that happened made you think if your government always told you the truth, it created questions. This fell on the era of the Vietnam situation that eventually occurred down the line. It brought on a lot of questions about people, government; could you trust political figures? Those kind of things.

Question #9:

You know people always wonder what our country would've been like if JFK had lived. He was a pretty good president, not as effective as President Johnson in terms of getting legislation passed, but it was the idea of the tally, the youthfulness, the visions, the dreams that people have that continue to live. He stood at a point in time where there was a lot of social upheavals, questions on the Civil Rights movement. I think he brought his dreams, his visions, and the things he wanted for society and along with other people in that time period. Everyone wondered what it would've been like if he'd have lived. We are called the mystique of JFK. People have made livings off of researching the mystery of

the whole assassination. There are constantly books being written, movies being made and so forth. I guess it helped some people economically.

Question #10:

I don't know. All I can think of would be the Vietnam situation I don't think it altered in terms of social situation except the Civil Rights movement. I think JFK would've done exactly what LBJ did. I think that would've occurred no matter what. It would've been interesting to see in terms of Foreign Affairs what. . . I think that was altered more than anything. . . what our role would've been in Vietnam, or what our role would've been on a continual relationship with Russia. The ruler of Russia and JFK had reached a mutual respect in terms of the Cuban missile crisis. There might have been some compromise down the line. I think it would've altered Foreign Affairs more.

Question #11:

Without reviewing anything that has been written I basically think that there was a conspiracy not among our government officials. I think it was ex-CIA individuals who were possibly contacted for either, because they didn't like President Kennedy's policy in terms of Foreign Affairs and especially how he was kind of attaching the military and industrial establishments. I think that was one thing that led to the assassination and I think there was some element of Cuban/Mafia-type involvement. Then all these guys got together and took a chance of getting rid of him. The attorney general at the time was his brother and he had been after the Mafia for a long time. Of course, the Cuban Missile crisis occurred and Cuba was feeling some heat from him. Our industrial military complex, big business. There was money to be made at war. I think they were feeling some things and found a group of individuals who thought they could pull this off. Maybe there was money made from it, I don't know.

Question #12:

I don't think the government per say was involved in the actual assassination, but I do think the government was involved in later trying to cover up. They weren't very diligent

in protecting the president. Like in the Watergate situation. I don't think President Nixon knew about or gave the command to break into Watergate, and doing something illegal, but I think that's what nailed him. Once they discovered his people had done this instead of saying hey yeah they did this and your heads are going to role instead of doing that he covered up and I think that's what happened in the JFK assassination: They said 'Hey we didn't do a very good job in protecting the president so lets cover our tracks and show that we weren't irresponsible.

**William Hartley**

Question # 1:

I was fourteen years old, I was in English class at Wilson Middle School, and I lived in Muncie on 15th street.

Question # 2:

I was only fourteen years old.... it wasn't really shock, I really didn't think to much about it, I guess I was a little sympathetic for my teacher, she was in a daze.

Question # 3:

I believe there was a conspiracy and I don't think they investigated too well or if they did they were hiding the truth.

Question # 4:

I believe that Oswald was the lone gunman, but I don't think he acted alone. I believe there was more than one person who helped set it up.

Question # 5:

Well, that's probably true, knowing how bullets work. The bullet could have possibly went through Kennedy and the governor.

Question # 6:

Well, I don't think that one man could have shot more than three rounds in that amount of time that it happened, with that type of gun.

Question # 7:

I think he was involved in the planning process but for as far as doing the actual shooting, I don't think he pulled the trigger.

Question # 8:

At the time it didn't really affect me, like I said I was only fourteen. All I knew was that I was getting out of school work. I do remember my parents being really upset, my mother was crying and my father was angry and trying to calm her down.

Question # 9:

I think Oswald was the lone assassin, he was the only one who fired; however, I don't think he was the one involved. I believe that the government was involved along with the mafia. I also think the Cuban Missile Crisis decision lead up to the actual planning of the assassination.

Question # 10:

I believe that the people involved in the killing of our president couldn't handle the way our country was maturing with JFK as the president.

**Donald Hedges**

Question #1:

I was 33. I lived on 3517 W. 30th, where I live right now. I was working at Delco Battery. I thought it was awfully bad and I didn't like it very well. And I liked the man very well.

Question #2:

Do I think there was a conpiracy? Well, there had to be. The man was only 23 years old. There had to be someone backing him up.

Question #3:

No, well, there couldn't have been any more assassins, but there had to be someone backing him up.

Question #4:

Yeah, he had to have a strong gun to do it, but he done it.

Question #5:

No because he killed him because he liked Kennedy and maybe he was a democrat and liked him real well.

Question #6:

It didn't effect my life, but I hated it that the man got killed. Like I said, I think he was a good man.

Question #7:

I think they set him up as a god and it hurt everybody. Not only in the United States but all over the world, because, like I said, they thought he was a god, just about.

Question #8:

Not a lot. Because one man can't really change history that much. Look when Roosevelt died for example. When Roosevelt died everyone thought, my God, now the Japanese and Germans will win World War I. Well old Harry Trumam went over

there and kicked the daylights out of them. He did a better job than what Roosevelt would have done.

Question #9:

Oswald went into a four or five story building and shot Kennedy. Even in the wintertime, they had the bullet proof top off the car. In wintertime they should of had it on. When one man shot, they didn't know who shot. There was so many cars flying and people walking and everything else. They probably wouldn't of known where the shot came from until, someone look up and said they seen a man shooting in the window.

Question #10:

I wish I could have seen what would of happened, if he had lived.

**Jerome Heyer**

Question #1:

I was 18. I was in Okanawa, and I was watching T.V.

Question #2:

Shock. And my thoughts were it couldn't be true, and then I came to realize later on that is was true.

Qustion #3:

I don't believe there was a direct conspiracy. (Q: What do you mean direct conspiracy?) I mean, I think countries were talking about it, but they had not really planned anything official. There are always rumors, but I don't think there was any planned conspiracy.

Question #4:

I believe that! I believe he was the lone assassin.

Question #5:

I believe that too. It is possible. (Q: One bullet can go through JFK and Connally and cause seven wounds?) Seven wounds? Bullet wounds? I don't think there were ever seven bullet wounds counted. There might have been seven wounds, but there were never seven bullet wounds. A bullet wound is where you can find where it entered the body, and all bullets make a certain kind of wound. I don't think they ever found seven separate bullet wounds.

Question #6:

I think that has been proven and I think that's true too. Three shots.

Quetion #7:

I don't think he was. I think it was an emotional response of where he wanted to be famous. If you look at it later on, you find out that Ruby was always looking for attention. But I think, this is one way, where he thought, he would be a hero. It turned

out, he wasn't a hero, because we wouldn't be guessing right now if we would have had Oswald alive.

Question #8:

After the immediate thing of shock and disbelief, the next thing I had to do, since I was in the Marines at that time and I was security battalion, we initially thought that-this was the early stages of Vietnam and there was talk of us going into Vietnam then, and we thought the Vietnamese had something to do with it. We also thought maybe the Philippines, for some reason. That thought, I can remember that to this day, the Philippines or Vietnamese had something to do with it.-but anyway, we had to fly around for a long period of time. We flew combat gear thinking we were going somewhere, when actually we landed right back where we were.

Question #9:

The first reaction was one of disbelief that anyone would ever try to assassinate JFK, because at the time he was a very popular president. Of course now, all the presidents ride around in bullet proof limousines and security is five times as heavy as it used to be.

I think the United States changed after that. We went from a time of the 60's, late 50's, early 60's, was a time of quietness and the country was almost on a mission to get on the moon first, but for a long period of time after the assassination we were at a stand still. I mean for 10-12 years we were at a stand still. With Nixon and Johnson we had some bad times. Part of it was kicked off, I think, by the assassination.

Question #10:

Well, of course, history is what has happened, not the future. However, again, for 10-12-13 years, we were a stagnant country. We got into Vietnam and there was no clear definite objective. Had Kennedy been alive, we would not have went or we would have went in to win. The country was just down for that period of time. There was a lot of lost time.

Question #11:

If you mean, how did it happen and why did it happen, I think Oswald was, number one, a person out looking for attention. I don't think he knew personally that much about Kennedy. But he had visited a few countries, Russia and Cuba. The U.S. and Kennedy had created a lot of problems with them. Russia didn't want to have anything to do with Oswald. And there is no definite proof today that Cuba wanted anything to do with him. But when he went to Russia, they said this guy is an ex-marine, a P.F.C., and he offered his services to Russia. They turned him away. They gave him a little job, and they said that 'you are not going to be a big figure'. So he left Russia and came back to the U.S. I think he got back here and thought, 'now who is the biggest enemy of Russia, where I can show these people that I am really important to Russia'. And I don't think Russia told him to do it. I think he just set it up in his mind that this was his moment of glory for Russia. He went off and killed him.

Question #12:

I think they should let it rest. I mean you see movies now and different books with different theories. I think these people are just out to make a buck off of it. No one will ever know, since Oswald was killed. Only he knew.

**Phyllis Hollars**

Question #1:

I was in the process of vacuuming the carpet at my home when I lived on 910 Cherry Street in New Castle, Indiana when I first heard that the President had been shot.

Question #2:

After hearing the news on television, I sat down, crying, as I waited to hear the rest of the story. I was filled with both shock and sadness.

Question #3:

Yes, I believe that Lee Harvey Oswald had a part in it.

Question #4:

Yes, I think that Oswald was framed.

Question #5:

I don't believe that the FBI was involved in the assassination, but I do believe that they were involved after the assassination.

Question #6:

I think they're a joke. I believe that there was a major cover-up.

Question #7:

Yes, I do think there was a conspiracy. I believe that Lyndon B. Johnson and Fidel Castro both had a big part in the assassination. I think that Lyndon B. Johnson very much wanted to be President of the United States and knowing that he wasn't going to be elected felt this was the only way. I think Fidel Castro was involved because of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the incident with the Bay of Pigs. I also think that the Warren Commission tried very hard to cover up the evidence.

Question #8:

I believe that Jack Ruby was hired by the Warren Commission to kill Oswald before he had a chance to talk.

Question #9:

No, I don't think that Jimmy Hoffa had a part in the assassination, but I do believe that he was a very happy man after it happened.

Question #10:

I think that if JFK had not been assassinated, he probably would have settled things in Vietnam once and for all. I think that if he wasn't assassinated, communism would not exist in Vietnam today.

Question #11:

I think the assassination of JFK affected my life in that it made me angry with politics and with the world .

Question #12:

Yes, I do think that John F. Kennedy would have been re-elected in the election of 1964. I think this because he was very charismatic. He did everything that he sat forth to do and said he was going to do. I think that he was out to help the "little people" or the working men.

Question #13:

I think that before the assassination of JFK, our country was looked upon as one of the most powerful and richest countries in the world, and after the assassination and our loss of the Vietnam War, our country became known more or less as the "push over" country: a country no longer superior, but inferior to other countries. I also think that the economy has suffered a great deal since the assassination.

**Clark Hornback**

Question #1:

I was living in Muncie, Indiana I was working at Muncie's post office and we heard it over the radio that he'd been assassinated and when the carriers came in they wouldn't believe us, they thought we had just made the story up. I was probably about thirty-seven years old.

Question #2:

Well, just sadness for the country, that you would think that something like this couldn't happen in this country, always somewhere else. But it could happen in this country.

Question #3:

I can't personally believe that. I don't have anything to prove it but it seems that there are cover-ups some place.

Question #4:

I have trouble with that too, but then everything that you hear tries to disprove all this, but I don't know that how one person could have had all that knowledge and been able to do that.

Question #5:

I suppose that is possible.

Question #6:

Well, I always was concerned about the other reports of shots being fired from other directions. I heard reports that, that could have been possible.

Question #7:

My feeling at the time was that Jack Ruby had been sent in to silence the witness, to

silence Oswald so he couldn't talk. I have no proof of that either.

Question #8:

I don't know that it personally affected me in anyway. Just my concerns for the things that were going on in the country, that this kind of situation could develop.

Question #9:

I don't think anybody will forget where they were at, most anybody can tell you where they were at.

Question #10:

I don't really know.

Question #11:

I think that a lot of politics at the time, and an awful lot of politics in Texas had a lot to do with the assassination. There may be some things come out later that we don't know about now. As of now there doesn't seem to be any proof he was warned not to go to Dallas, because there might be problems.

Question #12:

No, not that I know of but it seemed that Jacqueline was treated a little bit shabbily but I know it was in the scare and all the hurry to get out of Dallas they thought there was conspiracy and they must leave immediately. It seemed pretty callous to have her stand there and hear LBJ be sworn in as president. Those things aren't supposed to happen in the fear of things.

**Martha Huffman**

Question #1:

I was 29 and I lived on a farm. I was fixing lunch for younger children that were at home and thinking about what I was going to fix for supper when the other children got home from school.

Question #2:

Well I couldn't believe it, I mean nothing like this has ever happened in my lifetime, so I was just really stunned.

Question #3:

Well I can't remember when the Warren Commission came out with their findings, but I could hardly believe that one person could do such a terrible thing on their own.

Question #4:

I wasn't aware that's what they thought but I still couldn't believe he alone did it.

Question #5:

Well I can see how one could pass through a person and hit another person, but no I don't think that, I believed that one bullet did it all.

Question #6:

Well I concluded that two bullets did hit Kennedy and probably the third one hit Connally.

Question #7:

Well Jack Ruby always liked to associate with people that keep it at prestigue. I don't think Jack Ruby would associate with the assinator.

Question #8:

Well I don't know if it did personally alter my life, but I thought that John Kennedy did great things for this country and I think he bought a lot of people together and made them think where a lot of our other presidents hadn't.

Question #9:

Well I think eventually the races would of been less critcal of one another. I think that he would had us think more about their personal lives and less about the color of our skins.

Question #10:

Well I don't know he had a lot of impact with the world as a society and he was willing to tolk but he had a firm hold on our country's saftey. I really can't say what one thing would of made a difference, but he was just a strong person and a lot of world leaders respected him and we might of been appreciated that with all the things, to again that Desert Storm may of not of happened.

Question #11:

Well I think Oswald probably did fire the fatal bullet. I think if he didn't work alone he had a lot of imput from a lot of people even if he was just listening to what other people said and added to his other knowledge. I think he wanted recognition. He was a little man that probably never had a whole lot because he was pretty self-centered and thought that the country owed him something. I think he just rubbed elbows with the red community that he just got alot of things all twisted up in his mind. I think his mind was kind of twisted. And I don't know if he talked to anyone in the communist party and indicated what he was going to do, they might of just went along for the ride.

Question #12:

Well only that the Kennedy family has been in a lot of people were really scared for the fact that they wern't going to make changes or John Kennedy wasn't going to make a lot of changes. And a lot of business members didn't want to get involved. He was for Middle America and mid-income people are falling farther and farther down the totem pole that all we'll have are the rich or the poor or the not so poor. We just don't have a middle income community anymore.

**Andrea McNew**

Question #1:

I was probably in my thirties, I lived in Muncie at the time, and I remember that I was vacuuming my living room and for no apparent reason I turned on the television just as they were announcing that the president had been shot.

Question #2:

At first I couldn't believe it. I don't think anyone could. It was a really strange feeling because when something like that happens you just don't want to believe it. You have the feeling of insecurity and think well, maybe, they made a mistake.

Question #3:

I think that there was probably a conspiracy but I also think that America will never know the truth or understand why it happened to such a good president.

Question #4:

I think that he might have been the person who was responsible for actually shooting the president, but I believe that there were other people involved. I think that there was a connection with Cuba.

Question #5:

I think that is a little ridiculous. It's hard for me to believe that one bullet hit two people. It has always been my understanding that bullets basically explode on impact.

Question #6:

There were more than just three shots fired. I think Oswald had a rapid firing gun and I also think that there were probably some bullets from another gun fired. As I said before America will probably never know. I do believe, however, that the bullets from Oswald's gun were the fatal shots.

Question #7:

I think that the conclusion that Jack Ruby was no way involved is wrong. Ruby was sent in to make sure that Oswald did the job and that he wouldn't get a chance to tell his story.

Question #8:

I think that it was a disappointment because he, his wife, and his children were associated with what was called Camelot. President Kennedy's death was hard to accept because he was hope for the future. People from that time will always wonder if the country would have been more beautiful and prosperous if Kennedy has not been assassinated.

Question #9:

I think that we lost some of the enthusiasm of our country and I think that we have a tendency not to be optimistic, that we think that maybe our lives are over, or that there will never be another President Kennedy.

Question #10:

We will always wonder what might have happened.

Question #11:

I think that there was probably a connection with communism or Russia or

possibly the impact with Cuba.

Question #12:

I grew up listening to the Fireside Chats of Franklin D. Roosevelt and I know that when I was a little girl that I remember the optimism he portrayed and I think that even though JFK was younger, he still filled people with hope and optimism. I feel that that is missing in politics today. There is too much bitterness in our government and I'd like to see a president that would restore that optimism that FDR and JFK gave to us.

**Marjorie Mace**

Question # 1:

I was thirty years old. I lived at 1024 W. 2nd St. in Muncie, Indiana. I was trying to take a nap when my son came home from school early and told me the president had been shot. At first I didn't believe him until I turned on the television.

Question # 2:

I was very upset and shocked because I admired Mr.Kennedy. I was shocked that a man could kill another man of Mr. Kennedy's caliber.

Question # 3:

I think that the Warren Commission is wrong in their conclusion and that they are holding our some evidence in order to cover up a conspiracy.

Question # 4:

I don't believe the Warren Commission is telling the public all that they know because some of them were involved in a large conspiracy.

Question # 5:

I think their conclusion stinks. They know that their was more than one bullet that killed Mr. Kennedy but again their conclusion was based upon the covering up of a large conspiracy.

Question # 6:

I think that they are trying to confuse the American people so they will not be looking for the truth, but rather they will believe what the commission tells them.

Question # 7:

I personally think that the Warren Commission knows who shot the president and who was involved in the assassination. That is why they say he wasn't involved, because he was part of the total picture, the mafia.

Question # 8:

I guess the only way the assassination affected me was in the way that it affected almost everyone. I didn't like Johnson and I didn't want him to take the responsibilities of running the country because I didn't feel that he could do it.

Question # 9:

John Kennedy was for equal rights and handled the Cuban Missile Crisis to the best of his ability. The fact that he was killed after making many contributions to society is hard to believe.

Question # 10:

I don't know. It is hard to predict what would have been different.

Question # 11:

I think since Jack Kennedy belonged to the mafia he was really responsible for the death of both of his sons.

Question # 12:

Yes, I don't think that the American public will ever know what really happened on that day. The conspirator were too thorough in their cover-up and I think that they disposed of all of the evidence that could prove who killed John F. Kennedy.

**Cynthia Marshall**

Question # 1:

I was teaching at Southside High School. I was the librarian here, and I had been librarian for a year. On that particular day, we were getting ready to go to a pep session, I remember so well, and the principal came on and said, "They've shot the President." I was forty-three.

Question # 2:

Well, first of all, it was disbelief that it had happened. And then, of course, I was very much aware that he was going on this trip to Texas. It was a smoothing-over of conflict that he was having with his Vice-President, Johnson. The Kennedys and the Johnsons were far from friends. The Kennedys had figured that [since] Johnson had not gone to Harvard, [he] did not belong in the "elite circle." And so, Governor Connally invited them to come to Texas. It was really a healing...it was a healing thing. Just as you see today's president, when he has a problem, he goes to the problem and tries to solve it. Well, there's nothing new about that...that's exactly why Kennedy had gone and had made these elaborate plans to go to Texas.

Question # 3:

Oh, I'm sure there was a conspiracy. [With] everything I've ever read, I'm just sure there was a conspiracy, which had its roots when Eisenhower was president, not that he was a part of the conspriracy. But, when he allowed Russia to put arms, missiles, on Cuba, that was very upsetting to interest groups here in America. And of course you know, at the Bay of Pigs, the first thing Kennedy did was to call Eisenhower. You've seen that famous picture when they were walking down through the rosepath. He was seeking advice and council, you know. [He] thought, "What can I do," because they were very much afraid that we were going to be thrown into war during the Bay of Pigs.

Question # 4:

Oh, yes. And I think it carried on into later years. I think that Jimmy Hoffa is still a part of that conspiracy. You do not get elected to any office without support. You experienced the last election. Mrs. Harriman was the godmother for Clinton. She had picked him out. She was a wealthy woman. In exchange, she was going to be ambassador to France. That always happens. No matter for what office you are running, you have to have someone supporting you. Most of all, you have to have money. In the case of Kennedy, he had full support from the labor union. An then, after the Bay of Pigs, I am sure that the Mafia got into the scene, and that was one of the reasons we were so happy to break relations with Cuba. Aside from being Communist, they were also a hotbed for the Mafia and their gambling. I firmly believe that the CIA and the labor unions were a vital part of that conspiracy.

Question # 5:

Yes. He was a double-agent. He had been to Russia. He was a double-agent, and he was the patsy. He was set up. He was to leave that gun on the windowsill. He was to go to that theater. He was not to shoot that Dallas policeman. That's where he went wrong. That brought Dallas into the picture. The United States government could have handled it otherwise. The CIA could have handled it very smoothly. They knew where to go to find the gun, they knew exactly which window, [and] they knew which theater he was to be in. (Q. So you think that through the panic of shooting officer Tippit, Oswald ruined the plan?) A. I'm positive of that. He was going to be killed, but it was the labor people who had helped him, going way back. You see, Mrs Kennedy was a Fitzgerald, and her people were the big whiskey people and the bootleggers in Massachusetts. She had money from her whiskey holdings that she had inherited. Then Roosevelt put Joseph Kennedy, Sr. on the Securities and Exchange Commission. He made that money into millions for them, and that's how he did it.

Question # 6:

Oh, that's hard to believe. It's hard to believe, and yet, it isn't at all irregular to pick up the paper and see that somebody got shot, and the bullet went through and ricocheted and hit a second person. And, of course, Conally's wound was not anything. You know, he was wounded, but it was not as seriously. It's possible that a CIA man down there on the street could have done that.

Question # 7:

Yes, I do believe that.

Question # 8:

I don't believe he was a party to the planning. I think he was a victim. (Q. A victim in what way?) A. Well, he was in an unlikely business. He was ... a nightclub owner ... and there again is the Mafia. The funds were drying up, and they were afraid. I think it went all the way to Robert Kennedy's [assassination].

Question # 9:

Oh, it was a very emotional time. You know, we could see it on the television. I consider myself a gung-ho American. I don't think there's any state as good as Indiana. I don't think there's any country as good as the United States. And so any disruption of anything unto which I am loyal upsets me. It's tragic when a father is taken from his children. I had great empathy for the family, and I regretted that my country was going through such a turmoil. Of course, everyone in the world knew it, and we became a focal point. Everyone knew our troubles.

Question # 10:

I think we've lived with it too long. I think it's time to get on with it. We don't dwell on Lincoln's assassination the way we have Kennedy's. We don't dwell on McKinley's assassination the way we have Kennedy. Why was he any different? I really

think it was the hype of the media. I think to dwell on it and to make him out to be something he wasn't is wrong.

Quéstion # 11:

I think that Oswald had been approached. I think he had been paid off. I think his marriage was a little bit rocky. I think he needed money. I think he had his orders. I think he went to work. I think he went to that [sixth] floor of the book depository. I think he waited for that parade. I think when it came, he made his shot, he laid down his gun and made off for the theater. He knew exactly where he was to sit in that theater. He was to be picked up and taken by the government. Where he made his mistake was [in shooting Officer Tippit].

Question # 12:

There are some people who go so far as to think [Lyndon] Johnson had a part in it. I don't think he was the smartest president we've had. I don't think he would have been that naive. There are a lot of people who thought that was his way to be president. He was afraid that Kennedy was going to dump him, and there was a period in his life when he wanted to get off the ticket. But I don't think that they would have taken that chance. I can't believe Johnson was a part of it.

**Bob Newton**

Question #1:

I would've been 14 years old. I was living here. I was at Wilson Junior High School in English class and they announced it over the P.A. system.

Question #2:

Initially I was incredibly sad. Not understanding, wondering who could do such a thing and why, for what reasons. Then anger. Wanting to take some vengeance toward somebody. John Kennedy represented such a youthful attitude. He was the first President to me that was accessible. You saw him all the time, you heard him all the time. He was involved with everything. You felt like he was a part of your life. There was a great loss.

Question #3:

I've never accepted it for a minute, not for a minute. From the very first moment that I heard that they were accusing one man, it was impossible. It was just inconceivable. It just wasn't possible that one person could've done that. There wasn't anyway. In my opinion there had to be at least three. There had to be at least three.

Question # 4

I think that I just answered that. I think that there must've been some reason why the Warren Commission coerced to come up with that conclusion. I don't know what method was used to produce those types of results from that investigation. Nobody has to be a great wizard to examine the evidence for themselves, to see that it just doesn't make any sense. To say that there were only three shots fired and there was only one assassin. No, that wasn't possible.

Question #5:

That's a complete impossibility. I served in the military, fired weapons. I've seen what bullets do. I've seen what kind of reactions bullets have after they pass through the human body. Then to look at the condition in the photograph, the pictures of the bullet that they say hit both

John Kennedy and Governor Connally. A bullet gets destroyed when it goes through the human body. It doesn't look like a bullet. That on looked perfect, looked like it was bought off the shelf.

Question #6:

I don't see how that was possible. I've heard the sound enhancements that were made. And you can hear, clearly four shots, at least four. I've seen different types of explanations that have tried to say there were six really fired. Viewing everything that I've seen, I would personally believe there would have to be at least four to six shots. A car moving only five to ten miles per hour, it is just not that easy to fire the weapons that fast, and hit a target as small as the human body, that far away. It's just not that easy to do.

Question #7:

I think he was either involved up front and implicating with Lee Harvey Oswald; or he, in some way, was coerced to do away with Lee Harvey Oswald after the assassination so no one could ever discover the truth. Jack Ruby, everything that came out of him, he was not a stupid man. He wasn't ignorant. No fool, not even the blindest fool, would walk into the basement of the police station and pull a gun, nevertheless shoot somebody at point blank range in front of national television. No one would do that unless they were coerced. I would necessarily say that he was an active participant. In my opinion he was forced into shooting Lee Harvey Oswald. I feel that he had to be involved in some kind of conspiracy, in order to preform that act of an insane man.

Question #8:

Personally affect my life. I think the consequences of his death are so far ranging, we still fell the affects of it today. I don't feel like our involvement in Vietnam would've been nearly as pronounced. Our entire campaign in Vietnam, the program of him allowing our advisors to go to

Vietnam, was a follow up from the Eisenhower administrations. I think it would've saved this country a lot of great, great heartaches if he could've finished the thing that he started. I think that his brother would've carried on the things that the two of them started. That would've made a difference in the world today. The world that you are going to grow up in. It was like for a long time, the world went crazy. for ten or twelve years it didn't make any sense. Incredible things went on, all around the world. I think that Vietnam was the most pronounced, but I don't think that it would have been nearly as severe. We would not have the economy fall apart like it did. Just that one single act, the one single bullet that killed him, didn't just stop his life, it changed the lives of the majority of the people on the planet. For years and years and years to follow.

Question #9:

It made us take a closer look at our leaders and government, what the media covers, and how truthful our government is to us. I don't think most of the people believe the Warren Commission, Federal government, CIA, or the FBI. None of them believe what the official comment was on John Kennedy's assassination. It really made everyone feel real insecure. It made everybody feel protective for a while. So it changed those attitudes in people.

Question #10:

It changed our economic well-being. It changed us from a society that was leaning towards a "we" generation. We wanted to work together, be involved with one another, have schools, colleges, good housing. Attitudes changed in our government. I don't think the civil rights struggle we have today would be nearly as severe. The later government was more concerned with peoples money than the people themselves.

Question #11:

I feel that Kennedy was assassinated for one of several different reasons. Any one of

several different groups could have been involved. I don't believe that it involved any government outside our country. I feel that the people who assassinated him resented the power he acquired so quickly, his youth, and his control of that power. He was assassinated for misunderstandings. I think it was directly controlled by one of the three people: teamsters, Hoover, or Nixon. John Kennedy embarrassed and humiliated Richard Nixon in the Presidential campaign. Nixon never forgave him. Kennedy humiliated Hoover, openly, for his poor job of running the FBI. He also criticized the CIA. Hoover's the biggest suspect of mine. He hated both Kennedy brothers.

Question #12:

Just that I think that every generation has to be more and more aware of what's involved in presidential elections, and the government. To be more intelligent about the selections we make and our leaders. So that we can prevent that from happening again. There is always the crazy lunatic that will go out and shoot someone; I don't think anyone believes that was done by a lone crazy assassin. That was just too well orchestrated. Just somebody working in a Book depository building, wouldn't have access to where the President would be at what certain time or what route he would take. The route had been changed at the last minute, did he know that, where did the information come from? I think young people have the obligation to learn as much as they can about the workings of government.

**Gary Nichols**

Question # 1:

I was a young construction worker back in those days, and since I was on the job I didn't have access to a TV or radio until I came home from work. As I remember, my shift ended early that day, oh around uh three o'clock I'd say. And for some strange reason I didn't turn on my radio while I was driving home in my pickup that day. Then when I got home, the first thing I did, which was my habit, I turned on the television to get some rest from my hard day at work. I turned on the television and I saw the news, that the president had been shot, and later of his death. Even though I hadn't voted for Kennedy, or liked that much, I was still upset that he had been.....killed.

Question # 2:

Well, from the very first, I thought something was fishy. I wasn't exactly sure what had happened , but when someone important has been killed.....well, you have to ask questions. I probably felt like the rest of the people, I was pretty saddened by it all. I think everyone took some interest in the matter. It was a sort of minute mystery....only with serious results.

Question # 3:

To me any story with as many plot twists as this one had to have more than one person involved. I never believed that there was no conspiracy involved in this assassination. What I couldn't believe was that this could happen in our country, not in America.

Question # 4:

I never believed that Oswald was the assassin. I think that the federal investigators that researched this case simply grabbed the first person that they could find to cover themselves. I didn't really trust the Warren Commission, after all there was so much confusion that day in Dallas,..... I don't think anyone could really tell what was happening.

Question # 5:

I don't see how any bullet could go through two people and not at all lose its shape at all, and this is what the government wants us to believe? I think it is a bunch of lies that were told by the government.

Question # 6:

I don't believe a word of what they say about the number of shots that were fired. I know that there is no way possible that only three shots were fired by the same man at a moving target....and, and he fired them through trees? I don't believe it for a minute.

Question # 7:

I don't know anything about Jack Ruby other than that he was involved in the mafia.

Question # 8:

I feel that it's a shame that that young man had to lose his life as a result of some high-minded conspiracy. I also feel that after the assassination, I lost a lot of faith in the government's ability to investigate violent crimes and I really don't feel President...Johnson or the Warren Commission was really interested in finding the truth about the case to begin with. After that I just didn't see my government in the same sort of way.

Question # 9:

I think that the assassination has made the public aware that the government is willing to kill and conspire if something is in its way, and that they can get away with it by canning witnesses and fixing evidence up to point the finger of justice at someone else if need be.

Question # 10:

I don't think that we probably gotten involved in Vietnam if Kennedy had lived. I think the rest of the 1960's would have been completely different. Probably I don't

think politics would have been different for the next twenty years. But, I don't think we could ever know what the real *difference would have been.*

Question # 11:

I think that there were two or more assassins involved, maybe one in the building and one or more in the general area of the motorcade that day. I think that those men were hired by the government or by the mafia or maybe even the Cubans because of what had happened in the Cuban Missile Crisis. I think that one shot or more hit him from the front, and probably one hit him from above and behind. I think that the government intentionally tried to cover up the fact and that the Warren Commission was only for show. I don't think that the government really tried to find out who the real assassin was or that they didn't want them to know.

**Richard Parker**

Question # 1:

I lived on Memorial Drive. I was temporarily working for Suttle Work Construction Company, on temporary layoff from Indiana Bridge. I must have been in my early twenties. I was going back to work after lunch. We were working on an overhead door at Hartford City. I heard it on the radio.

Question # 2:

On the technical government lines it was a cover-up. Well, I wanted a 6.5 tank. Most ammunition made for that was in the 1930's. Had any been made since other than a few cartridge makes which were rare. Most of those you couldn't hit a five gallon bucket at 50 yards from what I seen. You don't do an assassination with a ten dollar rifle. Besides the bullet that hit him in the head had to be a high velocity bullet. Which a 6.5 mm carcicano was not. It was probably from a .264 magnum or maybe a 25.06. I still believe that it came from the grassy knoll. There was an eye witness that was there later, it was a deaf and dumb mute, that did see people in that area hide a rifle in a railroad signal box.

Question # 3:

I figured they locked onto whoever they could get first, and probably didn't do an investigation. It's a typical government cover-up. I mean, why else would they lock away the facts from the public until the few recent years.

Question # 4:

I believe that there was two or more shooters.

Question # 5:

I think that it was possible that only three shots were fired, but those three shots could have come from more than one rifle.

Question # 6:

I think he was there to shut Oswald up. Oswald maintained his innocence until the time he was shot. I think he was sure instrumental in the, I think he was all part of the plan. The CIA was the ones who originally set up the Bay of Pigs invasion. They had a lot of reasons to, not to have too much love for Kennedy.

Question # 7:

Gun controls that were needlessly put on after his assassination and his brother's assassination who was assassinated by a foreign national, Saran Saran. So, uh, that's about the only effects, just more unfair laws and violations of the people's rights.

Question # 8:

I think a lot of people were mislead thinking he was a great person, which he wasn't. He was a mediocre president. Uh, the Cuban Missile Crisis was a sell out. He made a deal that the U.S. Government would not attempt to interfere or launch another evasion or allow another evasion to be launched from Cuba, like the Bay of Pigs. I just think that personally, he was a very poor president, and maybe on in the years of history that will come out.

Question # 9:

Other than gun control, I don't see where it has altered history. I mean he had

already instigated and had people in Vietnam, and Johnson just continued the policy until we got into a no-win-war situation, similar to the one in Korea, another Truman no-win. The Truman Doctrine drew a line, and, uh, not cross that line and that drug the war out and lost 50,000 lives for absolutely nothing.

Question # 10:

Well, I think there were severed factions in the United States that were interested in seeing him removed from office, as soon as possible. That could have been the CIA, could have been Cuban Freedom Fighters, uh, it could have been several different people. It could have been LBJ himself. He wanted to be president. Any of these groups, right there, would have had reason to have John Kennedy out of the way. It may not be set up in Dallas. As a matter of fact, there were other investigations that show that there were conspiracies in other towns. So, yea it could have been set up along time before that, but, uh, him riding in an open convertible like he did, they could have had him just about anywhere they wanted to.

Question # 11:

Well, it's a typical government cover-up, like we see time after time after time after time.

Question# 12:

Oswald being an ex-marine would not have pick a 6.5 m.m. Italian Caricano. For maybe five to ten dollars more he could have got a United States made Springfield bolt action or other rifles for maybe ten or twelve more dollars at the time. He also would not have used a full patched jacketed bullet which is used to maim. It is not made to kill just to maim. He would have used a soft nose hollowpoint type bullet which is made to kill.

That is a big difference, and Oswald being an ex-marine would have known these things and would not have used an Italian 6.5 m.m. Carcicano. Even though his fingerprints or whatever may have been on it, that could have easily been done, because a lot of people bought it at that period of time. As a matter of fact, you could buy one here in Muncie for five to ten dollars at the old Wells Store. So a lot of people bought these for collector's items. They weren't really sold to be shooters because they were such inferior quality.

**Joyce Parkison**

Question #1:

I was about eleven years old in a fifth grade classroom at Roosevelt Elementary School. I lived in Muncie on South Mulberry Street. We were in a music class when our regular classroom teacher came and interrupted to tell the music teacher. She didn't tell us, but she was loud enough that we could hear her say that the president had been shot. I did not know at that time that he had died. I found that out some time later.

Question #2:

I was shocked. I didn't really believe it. At that time everyone loved JFK and his family. I loved the fact that there were children in the White House. That was neat to me. I was just shocked.

Question #3:

I don't believe it. I'm not really sure what happened but I believe there was a conspiracy and some cover-up in the government.

Question #4:

That has always puzzled me. I'm not sure. Research seems to show that one person could not have fired all those shots. I do think he was guilty.

Question #5:

I never really thought much about that question. I don't think it is likely that one bullet could hit more than one person, but than I am not an expert on that. It's hard to believe someone who says any bullet could hit them both.

Question #6:

Well I don't believe that one either. I think there were more than that. I am not

sure how many, but I think it was more than three.

Question #7:

I have wondered about that because of his mysterious death in prison. I have always wondered about it. I do think he was in some way involved.

Question #8:

Being a child I just remember shock and grief. Pain was intensified for me because my grandmother had died just a few days after that. I can remember my family was in turmoil because of her illness. I can remember my parents saying that they were not going to tell her about the president so she wouldn't worry. They kept that from her. I can remember when Jack Ruby shot Oswald because a minister was sitting in our living room when we saw it. I didn't, at that time, realize the impact of that act. I just remember a lot of turmoil. It was a bad time. I will always remember that time watching John Jr.'s salute. Not just the clips they show now, but the actual happening. It will be in my memory forever.

Question #9:

Well, I think since his death famous people use more precaution and security. I think in our minds now we think how could this man have been in an open convertible. I think of how foolish we were. We were much more trusting. Now people are more skeptical. We seemed to still have dreams of the good in things, but now it is totally the opposite.

Question #10:

It certainly changed the secret service and security. The president is not as free as he seemed to be then. We suspect and investigate everything now, much more than

before. Today something like the Warren Commission could not get by so easy when making their statement. There would be more investigation. The media would definitely come in and take a look. Media has changed a lot since then. Media may have stumbled on something that would tie the knot with a conspiracy if it would have been now. They would have found some hole.

Question #11:

I have always thought that he was supporting some unpopular causes, such as civil rights and the Cuban Missile Crisis, and there were people in the government who didn't want to support those same causes. It scared them and they had no other way known to them to stop the president.

**Mary Jo Robertson**

Question # 1:

Well, I guess the first moment we knew something was wrong, I was in an all school convocation at my high school.

The announcement was broadcast that we were all to leave school immediately, that the President of the United States had been shot. Of course, we didn't know until later that he actually had died from that shot.

Question # 2:

We, we were all pretty shocked. I think shocked and stunned would be the words. It was very quiet, I remember. There wasn't a lot of talking. The students just got their coats and their books and left very quietly. And on the bus ride home, it was very quiet. I think most students just felt a sense of shock and astonishment.

Question # 3:

Now we're talking about issues that are pretty big and broad. Yes, I think that he had a part in the president's assassination.

Question # 4:

No, I don't think he was framed. I think that the entire assassination was much bigger than Lee Harvey Oswald, but I do think that he played a part in it.

Question # 5:

I don't know.

Question # 6:

Well, I guess I feel that the Warren Commission's report seemed not to address a lot of the important issues. I guess I feel like maybe they did not do a thorough job of

investigating or maybe they didn't do a good job of publicizing the information that they found.

Question # 7:

Well, I think I do believe it was a conspiracy just over the years I've come to that conclusion and based on some of the documentaries that have been broadcast about trajectory of bullets and those kinds of things. So I really believe that if you define a conspiracy as involving more than one person, then yes, there was a conspiracy.

Question # 8:

I'm not sure. I guess my instincts tell me that there was some sort of connection but I don't know that I can express what it was.

Question # 9:

No, I have no reason to think that he did.

Question # 10:

Well, I don't know. I think that he might have taken, of course, this is all supposition, but I think that he might have taken a harder line based on the Bay of Pigs incident with the Cuban Missile Crisis. I think that his attitude toward warfare was a little bit different and I believe that he may have approached it in a very different way, and that the results probably would've been different.

Question # 11:

Well, it affected my life in the sense that I think we all for the first time witnessed history actually happening. We were there at the moment history was being made and I think that we understood that. When you sat in your living room and watched Lee Harvey Oswald being killed by Jack Ruby, live, at the very moment it happened, it really impacted you that

history is being made during our lifetime, and that's a pretty powerful thing.

Question # 12:

I think yes, he probably would have been re-elected. He was very popular president and I think that very popular presidents have to really "mess things up" before they would lose an election. As an incumbent, I think he would've been re-elected. The assassination changed the course of U.S. history because then we had a president who have a very, what appeared to be, a very different philosophy as far as guiding the nation and governing the nation. I think its like a domino effect. One decision affects another one. One set of events effects other events and I think it probably changed the course of events drastically and we'll never know, of course, what it would've been like had he lived.

**John Rust**

Question #1:

I must have been about twenty-five years old. I was teaching at a rural high school; I was teaching a United States history class when I found out about it. It was Friday afternoon, and most people can tell you a time and what they were doing. I can do the same thing.

It was a junior United States history class. I had taught three years at that time.

Question #2:

As I reflect on it, I had the feeling that this couldn't happen. Maybe this didn't happen. Right at first, there wasn't any word that he had died. It was just that he was taken to the hospital. Maybe it really wasn't as serious as people really thought it was. So, then in the discussion, of course, in the class was "How could anyone do this?" The question "Why did this happen? How could this happen in this day and age, in the '60's?" I guess my feeling was that still I found it real, real difficult that this could happen.

Question #3:

I personally still feel that that is what happened. Of course, you must realize that I have not delved into it as much as what many people have. I mean the Warren Commission report was I don't know how many pages, and I can't believe that anyone could report on something in that detail and not have a pretty accurate report of it. I know there are a lot of people that disagree with that.

I spent some time last summer in Dallas at the very sight where it happened. There were people there that said that it just couldn't be a simple shot and all of this and that. I still believe that Lee Harvey Oswald was the one who perpetrated the act. I guess I still go along with the Warren report. But I know there are a lot of people who do not.

Question #4:

I don't know whether it was completely alone, and we'll never know. Whether someone in the Mafia was behind it, how will we ever know.

Question #5:

Yes I do, I really do. I know a lot of people say it would be impossible for a single shell to go through his body and into Connally's wrist. But I don't know how they can come up with that if it wasn't actually possible.

Question #6:

I know they say that, but whether or not, well why would they hide all this. Why would they report one assassin so many years. Was it a conspiracy in the government? I mean I am not an authority on this. I have never had a chance to investigate it that close. Even teaching United States history class, we don't get into the 1960's. We only cover the early 1900's. I haven't had time to read all I want on it.

Question #7:

I still feel like he was just so upset that someone had killed the president, but whether or not all the connections on rather it be the mafia or who he could be tied up with, again I don't know. I just really felt that he was so upset that he really wanted to just get rid of the man who had killed the President. That is why he chose to get rid of Oswald. Although, I know it certainly looks like the reasons if he(Ruby) was tied up in the mafia, why then would they want to go after Oswald. They don't want to get the plot out.

Question #8:

That is an interesting question. I don't know that personally it had a long affect. I know that weekend, everywhere you went was like a morgue. Everyone stayed home to watch everything that went on. Literally, millions of people actually saw Jack Ruby when he shot on Sunday morning, if they weren't in church. The state funeral was watched, again by everybody. Everyone was involved in it. You had this feeling of remorse over the whole situation. I am quite sure that they felt sorry for Jackie, John-John, and Caroline. It might have had some kind of affect on protecting the president from then on, but as for personally affecting me, other than short term, it really didn't.

There was some event the year before that had an affect on my life. I had forgotten to get a draft card. John Kennedy had decided then that if you were married you didn't have to be drafted. So when the Cuban missile crisis was going on the year before, I had missed getting drafted. I was ready to go before the draft board and they said they would not be taking any married men. I managed to continue teaching in this small school rather than go into the military because John Kennedy and his administration at that time decided they didn't want to take married men into the draft. That is the only way I was personally affected by John Kennedy and that had nothing to do with the assassination.

Question #9:

I think they do a better job of trying to protect the President now. And you would think that if a person was involved in politics, there aren't that many cranks out there that really want to get rid of someone. Now we know that is not the case. The Secret Service does an excellent job and they don't get into situations like they were then. They stay away from buildings where a sniper could pick them up. They run a check to make sure they don't go on routes like that. They have a covered car that has a bullet proof top. They keep that from ever happening again. It is engraved in everyone's mind. Everyone that was old enough to remember knows and can tell you exactly where they were at the time. That means there are certain times in a person's life that you just don't forget. The blizzard in '78, my father talked about the blizzard of '36, and my grandfather talked of the one of the 1800's. You always remember certain things, and this was one of those things. Of course this is the only assassination we've had.

Question #10:

I don't think anybody can know. The many things that Kennedy wanted carried out were never carried out. People had this vision, even today, that John Kennedy was this young vibrant President. There are people who, if you go into their homes, have statutes of John Kennedy on one side and Jesus on the other. I have really seen that in

some homes of some democrats around Muncie, In. Kennedy was not President long enough to be noted as one of the top United States Presidents, because he just wasn't there long enough. The things he wanted to do was just not carried out.
But he got the seed started. For example, a big area of race relations but some of the things that begin to happen in the movement in civil rights began under John Kennedy. That is something that continued on with Vice President Johnson and the things that Kennedy wanted.

The space program was started under Kennedy. There were a lot of things that were started but just never finished. John Kennedy definitely left his work on society.
Question #11:

I am not going to get into a lot of detail in this. I don't know that much on it myself. At the time, you read everything in the paper. I did read some of the Warren report, and I do agree that the text book depository and Oswald was there and he had to have a good rifle to hit that spot. He hit the mark evidently, and I think that is what happens. I don't know whether they will ever be able to prove anything different from that. Of course, he was shot, and I think probably at the time, it was over for him. Half of his head was destroyed. They, of course, took him to the hospital and he was pronounced dead. The next morning, they caught Lee Harvey Oswald. But we never got much information. Security was weak enough for Jack Ruby to get through. That's the way I view it.
Question #12:

Well, I didn't get the opportunity to go into the text book depository. It has another name now, but I think it is a museum in there now. And I didn't have the opportunity to go in. I think that would be very, very interesting. Had I known I wasn't going to be interviewed, I would have picked up all kinds of information about it.

If you go to Dallas, you are definitely the kind of person who would want to go to the sight. It is just exactly the way it was. There is a monument there, where the road

curves around, where it goes into the highway. It is located right there. It is very easy to really see everything that happened at that time. I think now, I wish I would have spent more time there.

I listened to some of the individuals talk, I think they were selling a lot of videos that go along with the idea of a conspiracy. Right now I am not convinced that there was a conspiracy or that the Mafia was behind getting this done. There is a lot of hate and dislike for John Kennedy. I know that too. I think I just feel that Warren Commission like any commission did a thorough job of it. Maybe not. I don't know whether we will ever know now.

**Max Rutledge**

Question #1:

Muncie, Indiana. I was in high school. I came over the P.A. system that JFK was assassinated. I attended Muncie Central. I was in study hall.

Question #2:

It was devastating because he was one of the best loved presidents that I can remember. He was very popular.

Question #3:

To be quite honest with you, I don't think it was run to its ability. I think there were cover-ups that to this day nobody knows.

Question #4:

Wrong. Looking at him, he didn't look intelligent enough to pull it off by himself. Everything I pieced together on the guy, he was just a loner that had been used by somebody, I don't know who. He was a scapegoat.

Question #5:

I've been a hunter all of my life. I've got plenty of guns. From what I've saw on the trajectories, I don't believe it could happen.

Question #6:

Another cover-up deal. From what I've saw lately on different stories and in the Warren Commission, I believe the Warren Commission, in itself, was a conspiracy to cover-up what happened to JFK.

Question #7:

I believe he was involved, but only to the extent to get rid of Oswald. I don't think he had the ability to pull off anything. He was about the same as Oswald. He wasn't smart enough to handle what went on.

Question #8:

Well, other than losing a president that we, at that time, loved, it didn't affect me much. I was a senior in high school, so you don't really know when politics are going to affect you later. But you lost a loved president, whether he was right or wrong, he was a well loved person. He had a good family life. He had a beautiful wife. It was like Prince Charming and his girl.

Question #9:

The Bay of Pigs. There have been some problems. But politics in general, I'd of liked to see him fill out his term. Maybe if he would have led us into Vietnam, the outcome would have been different. He would have been more gutsy than Johnson was.

Question #10:

Well that's back to the Vietnam aspect. We had to get out of a war that we should have won. We should have gone in there and won, we'd be a lot better off now. And the veterans would be more respected.

Question #11:

I really can't say exactly, to make any sense to you or anyone else, because there's so many different ideas on the bullets, and there has to be more than the Warren Commission ever thought there was. There was more to it than the Warren Commission ever brought out of it. I think Oswald was in it, but I doubt he killed JFK. I think he was just an implement to it. A bolt action could not fire as fast as it had to be fired at that vehicle. So it had to be more than Oswald. Maybe he did fire one shot, maybe he fired a couple more, but they were never recovered, to convince me, that they hit the president. There was more than Oswald shooting at the president.

Question #12:

It's a damn shame it's been thirty years, and still not conclusive on who killed him. He was a well loved president and it's a darn shame. Ruby, as well as Oswald, was a

scapegoat. Ruby may have been part of it, but there's still some unanswered questions on this.

Do you think we'll ever know?

No, I don't.

**Keith Sayers**

Question #1:

I was 19 years old, I was in Pensicola, Florida, in the Navy and we were on liberty and we were out riding around.

Question #2:

Well the first thing I didn't believe it. We stopped for a cup of coffee somewhere and I thought the woman was lying to us. She said the President had been killed. I didn't believe her, but I guess it was so.

Question #3:

I don't believe that's so. I think it took more than one person to do something like that to kill the President of the United States. I'd like to think it would anyway.

Question #4:

I don't think one man could come up with that by himself.

Question #5:

I think there's several people involed with it. There was more than one shot fired. It's virtually impossible for the way the trajectory was or wherever that bullet come down through there. That would of been pretty hard to do.

Question #6:

That's a little more believeable, the three shots, I think.

Question #7:

I think Jack Ruby has something to do with it but, we'll never know because he didn't get to talk about it. I think he had something to do with it.

Question #8:

Well I was very depressed for a long time, I took to drinking real bad and it was hard to believe. I think the country was in a whole state of shock. We were all numb for different reasons.

Question #9:

I think it's made us not trust the government as much as we should and we would like to because I think they definately lied about some of the things that happened. They will keep lying about it and keep it hid whatever it is they don't want the world to know.

Question #10:

I think it made the whole country lose faith in it's government basically and it definately left everybody with a bitter taste. The state of Texas and definitely the city of Dallas which it shouldn't of but it did.

Question #11:

It would be foolish for somebody with my stature to explain something that the United States government couldn't explain. I feel there was two or three people that did it. Cuba could of had something to do with it, the Mafia was mad at Robert Kennedy at the time they could of had something to do with it, Russia could of had something to do with it and with being the President of the United states you have an awful lot of enemies.

Question #12:

Yes, I don't believe we discussed where I wished if it happened or not. I wished it wouldn't of happened. I think he was a good president. It's a shame it had to happen because it made the whole world look at us pretty bad.

**Robert Sellers**

Question #1:

I was 32. I lived in Selma. When I first heard the news about President Kennedy being shot, I was in the home of a very good friend. When I walked in, she was in tears. She had a boarding house and the residents were sitting around the t.v.

Question #2:

I had read about John Kennedy and his heroism. Having been in the Navy, the thought of Kennedy willing to do anything to save his crew made me remember him come election time. I voted for him. Since I had this feeling towards him, I was in remorse and I remember that I cried. I went to my car and went home and watched the t.v. I didn't go back to work that day.

Question #3:

I believe that there was a lot of unnecessary money in the government. Being a retired policeman, I believe there had been a capable investigation going on by the Secret Service and FBI. To think that the Warren Commission said that there was no conspiracy, I still have my doubts, but I don't know if there was one or not.

Question #4:

I believe that he was the only one that pulled the trigger. From the evidence gathered, I think that he was the one that loaded the gun, pulled the trigger, and I believe that there were three shots fired. I do believe that he was the lone assassin. However, I do think that there could have been others involved.

Question #5:

I know that as an ex-policeman, it is very possible that a single bullet hit the President and Governor Connally. It wasn't such a high-powered rifle, but it was capable of causing those wounds. It was a steel jacketed bullet. You have to know auxiliary to know that. As a retired policeman, I have seen a bullet go through five full five-gallon buckets of blacktop sealer and exit and go into a 4x4 piece of treated wood. The bullet head

projectile was such that you could still identify what gun it came from, which was a 44 caliber. We did it to see how much the bullet power was. I believe that a bullet could have bounced around a human body and it can do damage, regardless of where it entered the body. It is just an answer not the answer.

Question #6:

I believe from what I heard on television, even though it was 31 years ago, if I'm not mistaken in the room of the building where the shots were fired, there were only three cases found.

Question #7:

I think Jack Ruby acted on his own. In admiration of Kennedy, he was upset by the wrath of this happening in our generation. I don't think anybody knew too much abut Jack Ruby. I think it was done because of his sentiment toward Kennedy.

Question #8:

I think that the only way it affected me was, I was being more cautious at looking at the men who held office, not just the Presidency. The reason for that is I could have seen them have better protection. The more I read about it and hear about it, the more it strengthens me to know what he did not die in vain.

Question #9:

I think it shocked us to think that it would happen in our day and age. To think of how modern we were becoming with modern technology, I believe we wondered if we would go ahead and continue our progress. People were shocked and they were ready to have something done. To think that I'm sitting here doing this interview 31 years later, and it still lasts in my mind, is amazing. I can still vividly see the car. I can see Kennedy slumping over. I can see his wife quickly laying across him. I can see Connally with his hand on the wound. I can see the Secret Service jumping in the car. I can see the car pulling up to the hospital. If anybody else say that and can remember that as I do today, I think we need to tell people that a man of this caliber regardless of what society may say

of him or what he did in his personal life, I still say that he was a great man and would have done great things for his country.

Question #10:

We were too complacent to think that our President would be killed. Now they have the limousines covered and if the President goes out of the building, he wears a bullet-proof vest.

Question #11:

From what I think, Oswald flew across several states to get to Texas. I believe that Oswald walked or drove the route the President would take. I believe he could have even scooped out where the President was to give his speech. He picked the best spot. I belive Oswald was not, I repeat was not a marksman. I think he could have been a capable hunter. I believe in him acting by himself.

Question #12:

The idea that a professor would put this idea in his students makes you think of what a tremendous man Kennedy really was. This is as significant as when Lincoln was shot. It is marked in my generation because of our ages being so similar. He was a powerful man the did well for this country. Perhaps in your generation, a man might die as heroically as he did.

**Lee Smith**

Question #1:

I guess I was about twenty-six years old and lived in Farmland, IN. I had just finished eating lunch and was just going outside to yell for my dad so we could finish the work on the farm when the neighbor called to tell us that the President had been shot. We turned the television on and kept watching it all day.

Question #2:

I guess, well, I don't know if you can call it outrage or not. Even though we weren't democrats we were pretty upset about the President being shot and I guess a little scared too because nobody knew exactly what had happened and where it had come from or why it had happened or who had done it.

Question #3:

I'm not real sure, I kind of feel like the Warren Commission probably came to the right conclusion. I don't know . There was alot of speculation but I feel that they pretty much had the right conclusion.

Question #4:

I think that was wrong. I think there was more than one bullet.

Question #5:

I've heard a lot of talk about that also and from the information I've heard, I think that it's more likely that there were four bullets fired because I think they found four shell casings in the depository. I'm just not sure.

Question #6:

I think that's probably right. I believe he acted on his own, out of outrage or misguided information or something. I think he did it all on his own and he didn't have anything to do with the assassination.

Question #7:

I don't know if it affected my life in any personal way other than just the grief and the disruption of normal routine, but as far as any on going effect I don't think it had any.

Question #8:

I think we're more aware that our Presidents and politicans are vulnerable to attacks no matter how many precautions you take. There's always the chance that something will happen to somebody.

Question #9:

There's a lot of speculation . I don't think that if President Kennedy had lived that we would have become as involved in the Vietnam War as we were.

Question #10:

I'm not sure what Oswald's motives were, nobody really does, but I feel that it happened just like it's been reported. I think he planned ahead and knew the President would be coming down through the plaza and he got in place ahead of time and carried out his plan. I think he was lucky, because there were other routes that the motorcade could have taken that day. I think he speculated and it just happened to be the right choice.

Question #11:

Not really. It was a sad time for the nation and consumed everybody's time. It was also a very exhausting time in everyone's life.

**Walbert Smith**

Question # 1:

How old was I? I was 29. I lived at 1923 S. Daly in Muncie, where I live now. (What were you doing?) When I heard it? I was in my car on the corner of Main and Mulberry listening to the radio.

Question # 2:

I couldn't believe it.

Question # 3:

I think it is wrong. I think it is a put up deal.

Question # 4:

I don't believe it. (Why?) Cause I don't think he had time to fire as many shots as he had to fire to hit as many people as he hit.

Question # 5:

I don't believe it's true.

Question # 6:

I don't think that was true either. I think they just put in that report what they were told to put in there.

Question # 7:

Nope, I think he was involved. I think he was hired to kill Oswald.

Question # 8:

Well, the same way it effected everyone else. Oh, it's a shame that the President of the United States would be shot by anybody.

Question # 9:

What sort of impact? That depends on the people, uh, it made a lot of us know how vulnerable everybody is, but it also let us know that nobody's above crime in the streets.

Question # 10:

In what way? (Well, if he was still alive do you think it would be different or the same?) Probably not.

Question # 11:

What I really thought? What I really think happened? I think he was, the assassination was planned and set up by someone in our government. (Who do you think was hired to carry it out?) Probably a group of people, at least three or four. (Do you think it was the Cubans, Americans, or) I think it was Americans.

Question # 12:

No.

**David L. Spence**

Question #1:

I was nine years old, in the fourth grade at Garfield Elementary School, and lived at 2306 S. Vine in Muncie. I was in Mrs. Fleming's class at the time. Two teachers came walking in and told us the bad news that the president had just been shot.

Question #2:

From what I can remember it was raining that day and two teachers came in one of which was crying. They told us about the assassination. I had sort of an empty feeling. It was like a family member had died. It was like you were in a dream.

Question #3:

I do not feel that nay conspiracy took place because I feel that the president wanted to be in the public eye as much as possible.

Question #4:

At nine years of age I felt that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin but as time passed Jack Ruby came into play.

Question #5:

I do not agree with the Warren Commission conclusion because I do not feel that it is possible for a bullet to leave a body, enter another, leave another, leave again, and reenter.

Question #6:

It is hard for me to answer on the Warren Commission conclusion because I am not familiar with the conclusions. Although I knew at the time that this was irrelevant. All the people were worried about the death of JFK.

Question #7:

I do feel that Jack Ruby had some type of involvement with the assassination.

Question #8:

When the assassination occurred I lost faith in the American people. I did not know someone could do something so evil. I think everyone was effected not just me.

Question #9:

I feel the death of the president made everyone lose faith in each other. I think if JFK would have been able to continue his presidency he would have changed everyone's outlook today.

Question #10:

The assassination altered how people perceive each other. I think people lost faith in each other when this occurred. Society as a whole suffered from his death.

Question #11:

This interview was hard for me to do because I did not follow the Warren Commission conclusion to its fullest. Most answers I have given are recollections of what happened at the time I was nine. At nine years of age I felt one individual, who was Oswald, shot the president in Dallas.

Question #12:

I feel the untimely death of JFK was one of the greatest tragedies in the United States. If he had continued as president I truly believe he would have made changes for the better.

**Bonnie Stellwag**

Question # 1:

I was twenty-one years old. I lived at 2301 S. Vine. I was eating a ham sandwich and it laid on the counter for three days because I got utterly sick. I first heard this when Walter Cronkite came over the air, he was all choked up and he announced that the president had been shot.

Question # 2:

At first I did not believe it because it was to preposterous to be true. I was pregnant with my first child and I was mortified because I didn't know what happened or how it happened. I was sick and just could not believe it.

Question # 3:

I believe that no conspiracy existed, but I will always wonder if there was not more to it because it seems impossible to me that a president could be shot that easily.

Question # 4:

I think that Oswald was the lone assassin. He was one screwed up guy and I feel he did this alone.

Question # 5:

I think it is possible but not sure how probable this is.

Question # 6:

I think this was possible with a high caliber rifle.

Question # 7:

I don't think that Jack Ruby was directly involved but I feel that he had some underground connection with this.

Question # 8:

I don't think I will ever get over the impact of a president that was this friendly, personal, warm, and that took us into political life in the White House. He was the first president that I got to vote for. I don't think I will ever get over his assassination. It still affects me today.

Question # 9:

The impact of his death really made us doubt the U.S. Government.

Question # 10:

I think if he lived we wouldn't of gone into Vietnam and if we did I don't feel that we would have been heavily involved. I think foreign policies would be a lot different today.

Question # 11:

I think what happened is what happened as far as Oswald being one screwed up guy and the security being relaxed. It was just the right person in the wrong place at the right time. Oswald was one screwed up guy who seen his chance of making history.

Question # 12:

I would add that this is one thing that you can talk about to a person my age and they know where they were and what they were doing when this happened.

**Lynn F. Stevenson**

Question # 1:

I was sixteen years old, I lived at 1302 W. Main in Muncie, Indiana. At that moment I was in gym class when they stopped everything and played the National Anthem.

Question # 2:

I felt like everyone else at the time. At first I didn't want to believe it and I was kind of scared because everyone was being so serious. I just thought everything would go crazy from there on.

Question # 3:

I, myself, think there was a conspiracy of some kind to do such a crime but I'm not sure what it consisted of or who.

Question # 4:

I really do not believe Oswald was involved but with what evidence we have I couldn't give a straight yes or no. Most of all I feel he was used as a dummy more than anything else.

Question # 5:

No, I do not believe that the same bullet hit them both but in other ways it was possible to happen.

Question # 6:

I do not know how many shots were fired for sure but you will hear many different stories or people say they can prove how many were fired. I think we will not know who or how many were fired for a long time to come if at all.

Question # 7:

I feel Jack Ruby was involved in helping arouse or planning Kennedy's assassination but I don't think he was part of the actual assassination itself.

Question # 8:

JFK's assassination made me feel insecure. It showed me that not anyone could be safe in this world no matter how popular or powerful they were. I think many seen what I am talking about when it happened because of all the insecureness.

Question # 9:

I think that his assassination will keep people thinking for a long time to come. I feel it might make the society change some also.

Question # 10:

Again I feel it has made people think and approach their lives more carefully.

Question # 11:

I'm not sure because of all the different things about it. Because you can read and watch many different things about it that give you a different opinion on how you think.

Question # 12:

Yes. I want to say that in my gym class right after they started playing the National Anthem a fight broke out between two guys. One of which was moved greatly and the other who was playing around about it. The one became very upset and so he decided to teach the little joker something about being serious. This just shows how some people were greatly affected by his assassination.

**Mary Stevenson**

Question # 1:

I was fifteen years old, a sophomore at Muncie Central High School, and lived at 264 Kilgore Avenue. I was in math class taking a test when I first heard about the assassination.

Question # 2:

I felt sad and could not really believe that it happened. I could not believe that someone could kill the president.

Question # 3:

I believe the Warren Commission was correct at the time but the older I get and more I hear about it I don't think it was all true.

Question # 4:

I do not believe that he could possibly shoot and kill a president and injure the governor all on his own will. I do not feel that Oswald could plan an incident of this nature all by himself.

Question # 5:

I do not think that one bullet could possibly go through the president's body and then the governor's body.

Question # 6:

I do not believe that three bullets could have done all of the damage that they were supposed to have done.

Question # 7:

I think that Jack Ruby had something to do with it, I do not know what, but I think some day it will all come out that there was more than just one or two men.

Question # 8:

The assassination of JFK made me feel as if I had lost a close friend.

Question # 9:

I think it has had a very lasting impact on society. I think that if he had lived the world would be different today.

Question # 10:

Again, I think if he would not have been assassinated things would be different.

Question # 11:

I think there was a conspiracy because he was a great president and would have been a great president. He would have changed the way things are today. I think there were to many people who would have been out of jobs and work that were in higher places that he would have done away with that got rid of him.

Question # 12:

No, because there are so many stories I am not sure what to believe.

**James Stoops**

Question # 1:

I was approximately 16. At the time, I lived in a small rural community, Louisville, and I was in school. In particular I was in my fifth period study hall.

Question # 2:

Well, at that time in my life, I've never felt shocked before. It was a feeling like suddenly my body was hot, numb. I just couldn't believe that that could happen. Of course we had read that there had been assassinations in the past. Reading about it, then hearing it over the P.A. that the President had been assassinated is two different things.

Question # 3:

Let me answer that in a staggered way. As I was younger, I was wanting to believe what was told to the public was true. So, I believed it very much. As I got older and heard other accounts, I became more and more skeptic of its thoroughness and truthfulness.

Question # 4:

I'm afraid right now with the evidence that has been presented to us, it is hard to believe that this so called magic bullet that went so many umpteen different directions and struck different things. Pretty hard to believe that their conclusion was a single assassin. In my opinion.

Question # 5:

It was a fantastic bullet if it really did all the damage that they said that it did. I'm skeptical.

Question # 6:

Well, if they wanted to say that they found three casings, then o.k. But, there were

several other people that reported hearing more than three. I guess that I would have to say that I don't believe them.

Question # 7:

That is a tough question to answer exactly the way it is stated. I watched Jack Ruby shoot Oswald. Right there I have to say he was involved. I guess I would have to disagree with their conclusion that he was no way involved.

Question # 8:

Probably there was a period of time immediately after where everyone was a little empathetic and things seemed to be tragic to them. I am sure at the age of 16, I felt very depressed for a while. So, it did affect me personally.

Question # 9:

Well, it might have been in this present series of generations. Just the opening of the door of where the public believes that anything can happen and accept it. Right now when most of us read about a crime, or a tragedy, there is no real impact on the individual. I think maybe the Kennedy assassination was the first thing of the national level in recent history.

Question # 10:

Well, I would like to say that it stopped the extreme liberalism, but that has not been the case. It made most of the public aware that the people we put in public positions are not invincible. Things do happen.

Question # 11:

What I think really happened? Well, I have feelings in different directions. At one point, I thought that perhaps somewhere in the core of our government there was a group of people that decided that they could not live with Kennedy's ideas. Other times I thought the

lack of support that he showed for the freedom fighters in Cuba resulted in his assassination.

Question # 12:

We have had a lot of disruptive influence happen at our top position of government. I think we have had more shady characters and less trust in our executive branch now since that period of the early '60s. I hope it does not mean we are on a downward slope on society, but some say we are.

**Sharon Stoops**

Question #1:

I was sixteen; a sophomore at Markleville High School; we were in the middle of fifth period typing class when the teacher, Mr. Forrest, was called to the door by another teacher. He turned around and said, "I think I should tell you something terrible has happened..."

Question #2:

I think most of us in the room went into shock; everything got very quiet; most of us at first thought he was joking but he was very white in the face, so we began to believe him.

Question #3 and Question #4:

The Warren Commission went about things so crazily it's hard to know whether they really reached a sane conclusion. A large conspiracy (such as a Communist plot) seems completely unbelievable, but too many things happened "coincidentally" for me to believe that Oswald truly acted alone. Our own FBI and other "law" agencies seemed to be at odds over the case; too many things appeared deliberately bungled; too much was left unanswered too long for most of us to completely trust the Commission's decision. They may have been correct--they just weren't completely convincing.

Question #5:

It's still hard, even today, to really believe in the "magic" bullet. I had had enough experience shooting rifles, shotguns, and pistols by the time of the assassination, I was never convinced about the one bullet theory. I was no sharpshooter, but I had never seen a real bullet that could do all the things and give the results that one bullet was supposed to have done.

Question #6:

The day we first heard the announcement, the school principal put on the radio over the intercom so we could all keep track of what was being reported--we didn't know Kennedy was dead right away. During those first two or three hours, several announcers made mention of the shots fired from the knoll in front of the motorcade and that a gunman had been spotted there. Shortly after that, those reports were dropped and not mentioned again--with no explanation. No real mention of those things appeared for several days or maybe even weeks afterwards, and even then, it seemed when the subject was mentioned, it got hushed immediately. That always perplexed me. That has led me to question how the experts really arrived at the three shots only theory. Clips and analysis I got to see later have really given no substance to the "gunman on the knoll" idea, but the original handling of the reports made many of us distrust what the government spokespersons told us to believe--whether they were right or not.

Question #7:

That has always been too much to swallow completely--I realize that people do some really weird things but that shooting was very, very convenient, especially if someone did not want Oswald questioned.

Question #8:

I was at a very impressionable age; I was really just becoming aware of politics, etc. Kennedy was definitely a hero figure to most teens at that time, so the assassination was traumatic. After all, Kennedy had just faced down the Russians; the conflict with Cuba was easing; everything seemed to be going our (the U.S.) way. A couple of gun shots ended that. At that time, it wasn't a common thing to shoot someone unless we were at war with them.

This was a really big shock. Then, of course, the coverage of the funeral really played the national sympathies. The worst impact on my life (I realized later) that Johnson became president. The things he got us, as a country, involved in had a very immediate effect on my life--I lost several friends in the Vietnam War. Perhaps Kennedy would have involved us the same way; but he did not have the same interests that Johnson pandered to.

Question #9 and #10:

Besides putting Johnson in the White House, the whole handling of the assassination investigation spawned a sense of distrust for the government that had not been as apparent before. People seemed to believe that Roosevelt, or Eisenhower, or even Kennedy would take care of the country and them. Suddenly the President was vulnerable--and there was questions about whether others in our own government might be involved--and so distrust rapidly spread. We couldn't get clear answers. The media suddenly found it could have a heyday...all kinds of ideas got sensationalized. Questions were aired that might, at an earlier time, been considered unpatriotic or rude. Americans became very unaccepting of what government spokespersons spewed out. The younger people--the ones my age--became very suspicious of government. We all know how the "peace" generation reacted to the draft for the Vietnam War. The seeds for this type rebellion, I think, were started at the time of the investigation of the Kennedy assassination. When we wanted and needed clear answers, we didn't get them; therefore, we no longer trusted the older generation and were not willing to die for someone we didn't trust.

Question #11:

I don't really know what happened. I believe that there has been evidence lost (perhaps deliberately?). The Warren Commission put forth a theory that gave several people

an opportunity to "get off the hook"--not that they were part of a conspiracy to assassinate the President, but that they were inept in preventing it or in recovering evidence or keeping Oswald alive, etc. Probably no one, at this late date, knows the truth about everything that happened or didn't happened. I'm not sure it matters anymore. It does make an interesting topic for novels and movies--just another piece of sensationalized half-truths and a lot of fiction.

**Pat Walls**

Question #1:

It was Muncie, Indiana. I was a junior in high school, so that would have made me sixteen. I was in Muncie Southside High School's gym. We were having a pep session. I believe it was for the first basketball game, but I don't know for sure. It could have been football. Everyone had just gone down to the gym to have the pep session and were just into the gym, when the assistant vice-principal at that time came into the gym and told us that he had been shot. At that time, we didn't know if he was dead. He just asked us to orderly leave the school. I remember we were high and excited because it was the first game. It was the second year that Southside had been open. We were just beginning to get rid of the idea that we were no longer a part of Central. At that time, there was a great deal of opposition between Southside and Central. More so then than there is now. So we were all high and all of a sudden, you just plummet. I think people at our age really felt that John F. Kennedy had a lot of answers because he was the first man that had ran for president, during our lifetime, that wasn't an old man. It was like he was our parents age instead of our grandparent's age. He had that charisma where he made people listen to him. He made you want to be a part of what he was trying to do.

Question #2:

At first I wanted to know who was dumb enouth to kill the President and why. At that point, all you can ask yourself is why? To us he seemed like a man that could do great things. At that time he was trying to encourage young people to join the Peace Corps, and things like that, and it was like he was trying to reach us. He was the only President that I've ever seen that I really felt was trying to reach our generation. You felt like you had lost a friend. You didn't really know the man, but you thought you did. You wanted to attach yourself to him or to his ideas. You just felt like he was going places.

Question #3:

At that, I personally feel that I don't think I would have trusted the Warren Commission or any other commission they would have. I felt that it was boggled by whoever was investigating. It seemed like the Dallas police didn't do their job, and the FBI didn't do their job either. All the people who were supposed to protect the President didn't. An all the people who were supposed to be giving you the answers weren't. Everytime you turned on the news, you felt that it was just one more lie. Earl Warren--now he had a great reputation and he told you the truth, but as it went on, you felt that you would never know the truth. We'll never know the truth. When Jacqueline sealed some information, I think it made people more suspicious than ever. She knew something that she didn't want the public to know, or the Commission knew something they didn't want the public to know because they thought we were too ignorant to deal with it. It was as if they were so panic stricken at the time that they were really afraid of what might happen.

Question #4:

I don't think it's honest. I think there it too much controversy among where the bullets were supposed to be and x-rays and witnesses and all that. There are too many doctors at the Dallas hospital who say one thing, and "expert" government witnesses who say something else. I don't know if there was a conspiracy involved. I don't even know if that's important. I just think that the whole thing was bungled so badly that if there was in fact a conspiracy--that they never could prove it. They didn't get their information right. I think that's because it was the President. Ifi it had been a governor or another politician, they might have done a better job. It instantly threw them into a mind boggle. they felt they had to do police work quickly, instead of going slow and meticulously as they should have. They hurried to get a suspect as quickly as possible.

Question #5:

I don't buy that. I don't buy it now and I didn't buy it then. If you had an elephant gun, then maybe. I don't think that the kind of stuff they had then could do anything like

that. Now, supposedly, we have a teflon-coated bullet that has the explosive head on it and might have been able to do it. Just a simple rifle, I just don't buy it.

Question #6:

I don't know. I think the tapes have been played often enough that it was three or four. I think the experts can count and give you that. I just don't know. They had silencers back then, so if it was a conspiracy one could have had the gun with noise and one could have had the silencer. There could have been a shot by six or eight people in all honesty. For that matter, a supposed FBI agent that was supposed to be protecting him could have shot him. In all that confusion, I'm not real sure you could hear that much. Sound travels funny. I don't think they have included the possibility of silencers as much as they could have. I've never seen anything on that. I think that that's a real possibility.

Question #7:

I think that's bologna with a capital "B". I think Jack Ruby was right in the middle of it. I think he was paid to shut Oswald up if you go on the assumption that Lee Harvey Oswald worked on his own. I don't think he was smart enough to do that. If you read anything about him, he was just somebody out in left field, and he needed somebody to tell him what to do. He was just easy to cap off and Ruby, who had mob connections, would be known in history as the one who did it. He cheated us from the truth. I don't think Oswald would have been able to keep the away truth. They would have used truth drugs and everything else. I mean the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) wasn't working as they do now. They would have done anything to get the truth from him. It just denied us the chance for finding out the truth.

Question #8:

I felt betrayed because this was a man who could help our country. I honestly thought that JFK would have been a two-term President and Bobby Kennedy would be right behind him. I thought of them as brothers who had everything in the world. The Kennedy's were raised being in the political limelight. I think they were raised to believe

politics were a sense of duty. You couldn't buy them off. They had so much money. JFK was doing it because he needed something to do. I just felt cheated. He had a lot of great ideas and I think that's probably why he was killed. He was moving too fast for some people. I really think he would have done great things.

Question 9:

He himself had an impact in that he started the Peace Corps and things like that. He got the ball going in some social programs. McKinley and Lincoln were so far back in history that you don't even think about it. However, when Kennedy was killed, everything was going on. I mean the Vietnam situation was escalating and ever since Kennedy was killed, America has become a violent nation. All you have to do is pick up a newspaper and someone has been killed. I mean once or twice a month someone in Muncie is killed. It seems like murder is the answer now. Gangsters have been killing each other for years. Occasionally, you'll see a judge or someone pushing against the mafia or labor unions and they get killed. They just kind of took away our innocence. I think that if he had not been killed, he would have gone on for a second term and been elected easily. I don't know if he would have done as much on Civil Rights as Johnson did, but he was working that way. I think he would have really cleaned out labor unions. I honestly believe that he and Bobby ( Bobby because he was in the justice department) were taking on the Mafia--the Teamsters Union, Hoffa, and all that. They had in mind what they wanted to clean up. Had they had the time and power to succeed, things would be different. I never trusted Johnson. He was just a blackmailer who got things done. I think the everyday working person was hurt the most because since Kennedy's death, we've lost. We've lost in unions and in our jobs. We just lost our innocence. We had to grow up when we weren't ready. I think he got too close to something really, really big. I don't think Castro and Cuba were that important to us. We didn't like the situation, but I think the Mafia or labor unions are closer. Bobby and John (Bobby because he was killed also) were messing with people who had a lot of power. I'd come closer to thinking it

was Mafia-related rather than political. I think they should open it up now and let everyone know the truth. Enough time has passed that anyone involved is dead or not in power. They think the American public is stupid. I don't think they will reopen it now because we'll see how the people, supposedly protecting the President, failed.

Question #10:

I think they took away our innocence, and they took away the hope of the young people at that time. They felt close to Kennedy because their age was close. The media made us see everything ugly. It was definitely a planned assassination.

Question #11:

I don't think we will ever know for sure. I think it's more mofia-related than anything else. If the truth was there, it slipped through the fingers of the governmental investigation.

Question #12:

It was bungled. There is no way of knowing the truth. When Ruby killed Oswald, it created a missing link. We'll never be satisfied until it is done with; but we'll never know the real truth. There are no answers. It will never be finished.

# APPENDICES

Interview Questionnarie on JFK Assassination

1. How old were you, where did you live, and what you were doing the moment you first heard about the JFK assassination?

2. What were your feelings and thoughts when you first heard about the assassination?

3. What do you think about the Warren Commission conclusion that no consiracy existed in the assassination?

4. What do you think of the Warren Commission conclusion that Oswald was the lone assassin?

5. What do you think of the Warren Commission conslusion that one bullet hit both President Kennedy and Governor Connally?

6. What do you think of the Warren Commission conclusion that only three shots were fired at President Kennedy?

7. What do you think of the Warren Commission conclusion that Jack Ruby was in no way involved in the assassination of JFK?

8. How did the assassination of JFK personally affect your life?

9. What sort of lasting impact do you think JFK's death has had on society?

10. How do you think JFK's assassination altered the course of United States history?

11. Explain in detail what you think really happened with the JFK assassination.

12. Is there anything else you wish to add about the JFK assassination that we have not discussed?

Dear Participant,

Southside High School Academic United States History classes are doing an oral history project focusing upon the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. Your participation is essential for the students' successful conclusion of this project. The students will interview you, and the tape will be transferred into a written form. From this written record, the class will compile and publish a book about the experiences and memories of Muncie citizens on this important day in history. Copies of the book will be donated to local schools as well as local, state, and national libraries.

This project will provide the students with a unique opportunity to experience United States History as will as meeting interesting people like yourself that have experienced historical events. Your interview will also make an important and vital contribution to our country's collective memory of an interesting, exciting, informative, and vitally important historical event.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carl R. Siler

Teacher, Academic United States History Classes

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

I hereby release all rights, titles, or interests in and to all or any part of my tape recorded memoirs to Southside High School, and declare that they may be used without any restriction whatsoever and may be copyrighted and published by said Muncie Southside High School.

Place: Muncie, Indiana _____

(Interviewee)

Date: _____ _____

(Interviewer)

# INTERVIEW LOG SHEET

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